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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-027
Thursday
9 February 1995

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Five-Way Taba Meeting Issues Final Communique

NC0802120095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 8 Feb (MENA)—In a final communique on their unprecedented meeting in Taba, the economy and trade ministers of Egypt, Jordan, the United States, Palestine, and Israel asserted their support for establishing a Middle East bank to further encourage regional economic development. They called for consolidating cooperation involving their economies.

The communique described the meeting of the economy and trade ministers of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, and the United States in Taba as an unprecedented event. The meeting is described as confirming the participants' commitment to the peace process and to the goals of economic cooperation and coordination, trade, and development, which constitute a basic part of this process.

The communique said the meeting hosted by Egypt provided the first opportunity for trade ministers in the region and the United States to discuss trade issues that are an important part of the peace process and noted that the antipeace forces will not achieve their goals.

The communique called for the expeditious implementation of the commitments stipulated in the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles and in the Paris Economic Agreement signed between Israel and the PLO.

The five economy and trade ministers of Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Israel, and the United States agreed in their communique to devise laws and measures to develop regional investment and reduce restrictions on capital and ownership as far as possible, securing adequate protection for these investments.

The five ministers emphasized the need to upgrade the private sector and agreed to develop private sector communications and increase regional projects with the aim of declaring that the region is now open for business. The five ministers also agreed to adopt possible measures to remove obstacles to liberalize and open the region's markets to trade and investment.

The communique said that in implementation of the goals agreed during the Taba meeting, it was decided to ask a group of government experts to examine ways of removing obstacles blocking the emergence of free markets for trade and investment in the region. The communique said the group of experts will submit a report to the five ministers in six months.

The economy and trade ministers of Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Israel, and the United States agreed to form a governmental and private sector group of experts to set up a data network for the Middle East. Agreement was also reached to cooperate to organize training courses, trade missions, and other activities to promote trade to help develop the region's private sector.

Following is the text of the final communique issued on the five-way meeting involving Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Israel, and the United States:

In an unprecedented move, the trade ministers of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, and the United States met in Taba, Egypt, on 7 and 8 February 1995.

This meeting, which would have been inconceivable a few years ago, shows the participants' commitment to the peace process and to the goals of economic cooperation and coordination, trade, and development, which support and constitute a basic part of this process. At the same time their meeting demonstrates that the forces working against peace or those who want this region to remain involved in hostilities will be unable to impede the work.

As for the delay in the commitments stipulated in the Declaration of Principles and the Paris Economic Agreement between Israel and the PLO, the trade ministers urged the speedy implementation of these two accords, without any obstacles to the free flow of trade and investment.

The trade ministers stated their obligation to work toward building a future of peace and prosperity beneficial to the region's nations.

The Taba meeting, hosted by the Egyptian Government, is regarded as the first opportunity for the trade ministers of the region and the United States to discuss trade issues that are an important part of the peace process.

The trade ministers met to cooperate within the goals agreed on at the economic conference of the Middle Eastern and North African countries held in Casablanca, Morocco, the forthcoming summit to be held in Amman, Jordan, in October 1995, and within the current activities of the regional economic development group stemming from the multilateral peace talks.

The trade ministers called for increased cooperation among their economies and emphasized the need to upgrade the private sector. They agreed to develop increasing private sector communications and boost regional projects with the aim of declaring that the region is now open for business and there is a new partnership between the public and private sectors that will be enhanced.

The trade ministers agreed to adopt every possible measure to remove any obstacles to liberalizing and opening the region's markets to trade and investment and they support every effort to end the boycott of Israel.

The trade ministers realize the importance of expediting investment and creating jobs for the Palestinians and the

Palestinian Authority. To achieve this, the ministers agreed that the idea of setting up free industrial zones calls for hope.

The trade ministers announced the need to liberalize and coordinate foreign policy to enable companies to obtain products and services in the region. All the participants expressed their commitment to bilateral and regional trade cooperation in line with GATT and World Trade Organization principles.

The trade ministers agreed to enact laws and take measures to promote regional investment and reduce restrictions on capital and property. These laws will also guarantee proper protection of these investments and solving disputes fairly and at the appropriate time. All the parties pledged to take steps to safeguard the right to private property of companies operating in the region.

The ministers agreed that there is a need for training programs in the fields of management, marketing, and the control of quality and standard specifications. They also agreed to encourage regional trade delegations and meetings to promote trade and back a dialogue between the public and private sectors to fund joint projects in particular and encourage regional projects. The ministers reasserted their support for a Middle East bank to promote regional economic development.

To achieve the goals outlined during the meeting the trade ministers announced the following steps: They will charge a group of government experts to study the means of removing obstacles to free market trade and investment in the area with the United States, which is an important trade partner. This group will coordinate its functions with the ongoing efforts made by the supervision committee of the action group entrusted with regional economic development. The group will submit its report to the ministers within six months.

The ministers will form a group of experts from government and private sectors to establish a Middle East information network to benefit all the participants. An information network will be formed to collect and distribute details of opportunities for trade and investment in the region.

The trade ministers welcome the convening of the Amman economic summit in October 1997. They call on public and private international establishments to support this important call, which will promote trade and investment in the region. The parties will cooperate to organize training courses, trade missions, and other meetings to promote trade and develop the private sector in the region.

The ministers will continue their efforts to increase public and private sector participation in regional economic development to provide the best climate for unrestricted trade and investment. To enhance the private sector's role in the region the parties agreed to back efforts to study the possibility of establishing a business council for the region. The trade ministers will meet again in the next 12 months to review progress in achieving the goals outlined in this communique.

Jordanian Minister Views Results of Taba Meeting

JN0802154695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Feb 95

[Report by Khalil al-Qaryuti in Taba]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the conclusion of the five-way meeting of the trade and industry ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Israel, the Palestinian Self-Rule Authority, and the United States, the ministers underlined that their states are committed to continuing the peace process and to the objectives of economic cooperation and trade development, which are an integral part of that process. That assertion was made through Taba Declaration, which was issued today following two days of meetings. The statement included a host of recommendations and proposals. We had the following interview with 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, minister of industry and trade and head of the Jordanian delegation to these meetings, to discuss Taba Declaration and its results.

[Begin recording] [al-Qaryuti] Mr. Minister, the five-way ministerial meeting concluded today. Can you brief us on the most significant results reached at this meeting?

[Abu-al-Raghib] In fact, the agenda of this meeting included a number of issues, the most important of which was the means to develop trade [words indistinct] and support investment, as well as the private sector's role and the means to encourage the private sector to invest in the region. In the field of trade development, we discussed the need to amend the laws and instructions to facilitate the flow of goods and commodities among the various states and to expand free trade and take advantage of the international experience in this regard, particularly as regards the issue of GATT.

As regards the exchange of information, this was also an important issue. The concerned states will work on finding new means to exploit information and facilitate the transfer of information in a practical way on the level of states concerned with this subject. It was also decided to encourage and strengthen national and regional trade.

The means to support investment, particularly as regards stimulating investment and finding the proper climate for investment, were also discussed. We also discussed legal and organizational measures to strengthen foreign investment in the region. There was also an emphasis on intellectual property rights and the resolution of disputes concerning investment.

The private sector has an important role in developing the region in the future. We have to find means to stimulate the private sector to enable it to develop the infrastructure in the region, especially in the Jordan Rift Valley Plan, in which Jordan is particularly interested.

There is a tendency to support such regional plans, which will result in increased development, economy, and production. There are also other important regional projects, such as transportation, free zones, telecommunications, ports, and mining industries.

The meeting focused on studying the results of the Casablanca Summit and the means to find the necessary mechanism to ensure the success of the economic conference scheduled to be held in Amman in October. The participating countries expressed their support in this regard. The world states, and particularly the private sector, will be encouraged to attend that conference so that there will be action in a practical and productive way, and so that projects can be proposed and means to finance and execute them can also be proposed.

[Al-Qaryuti] Did you set a program or a mechanism to implement the results of this meeting?

[Abu-al-Raghib] It has been agreed to set up technical teams from the five states to work on finding the means necessary to implement these recommendations. The committees will meet periodically to fulfill their mission. Also, the concerned ministers will meet once a year to assess the results. [end recording]

The ministers held a news conference in which they reviewed the results of the five-way meeting. They also answered journalists' questions on a number of issues.

Israeli, Palestinian Negotiators View Cairo Talks

Israel's Singer Denies 'Crisis'

TA0802164795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The head of the Israeli delegation to talks with the Palestinians in Cairo, Yo'el Singer, has denies there is a crisis. He was reacting to a statement by Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, that the talks on elections in the territories had come to a crisis. More on this from Dick Winter:

[Winter] Speaking to reporters in Cairo before making his way home to Jericho, Sa'ib 'Urayqat said no progress whatsoever had been made in the two days of talks. I really cannot say that we managed to achieve what we are to accomplish, he said, adding that he believes the negotiations have now reached a state of crisis.

But the head of the Israeli team, Foreign Ministry legal adviser Yo'el Singer, was far less pessimistic, even describing the talks as positive. In contrast to the dramatic tones of 'Urayqat, however, like the lawyer he is, Singer got down to details, saying the purpose of the two days of talks was to begin formulating the exact language of the election agreement and it is unrealistic to expect that in only the first session the entire text would be written and agreed to. We're talking about a long process, he emphasized.

What 'Urayqat was talking about could have been an effort by the Palestinians to achieve some kind of dramatic breakthrough a day before the summit meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat at the Erez checkpoint. And what he intended to report to the PLO leader about the talks? 'Urayqat said he had nothing to tell Yasir 'Arafat which might make his talks with Rabin a success.

Whether 'Urayqat is merely trying to accomplish some last-minute political maneuver in a brinkmanship or whether there is a real crisis in the talks on elections is a question which will have to wait until tomorrow's summit meeting. But, one ironic footnote: The talks on elections were originally split off from the negotiations on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the territories because they were thought to be much easier issue on which the two sides could come to an agreement.

'Urayqat: Talks End Without Progress

NC0802162395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1453 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—The ninth round of Palestinian-Israeli talks seeking an agreement to hold legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza ended this afternoon without achieving any results or making any progress.

Speaking at a news conference at the end of the talks, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks, said: We were supposed during this round to start drafting the final joint agreement on holding these elections, after providing the Israeli Government with our views on these elections and the need for the legislative elections to be separate from elections to choose the chairman of the Palestinian National Authority. 'Urayqat added: We have tried in the previous rounds of negotiations to cover all the Israeli areas of interest, in accordance with the Declaration of Principles, and to begin a joint draft of an interim agreement on the elections. The Palestinian delegation presented its views on the makeup of the legislative council, the supervision of the elections, and the presence of international observers, he added.

'Urayqat pointed out that the Palestinian delegation proposed that the draft include criteria for the candidates and voters; emphasized that no Palestinian age 18 and older would be excluded from the process because of color, race, or position regarding the peace process; and provided for the participation of the Jerusalem residents in the elections. 'Urayqat added: We were surprised during yesterday evening's session that the Israeli team had left all issues on the agenda and wanted to start the draft agreement with issues related to the criteria of candidacy and voting. He regretted the Israeli delegation's insistence on its position, even during this morning's session. He added: We want Israel to be serious and to make up its mind whether it wants peace or no peace.

'Urayqat explained that the peace process is based on exchanging land for peace. However, he added, only three days after the Cairo quadripartite summit we were surprised by Israel's decisions to strangle the Palestinians economically and impose a security siege on them to cut them off. In addition, the Israeli housing minister announced that Israel would continue the settlement activity around Jerusalem, he added.

'Urayqat said: The head of the Israeli delegation told us that he had no instructions or mandate from his government regarding the election of the chairman of the Palestinian National Authority, in addition to the election of members of a Palestinian council. He added that the Rabin-led Israeli Government believes that it could go on building settlements and continuing the policies of occupation. He noted that peace has to materialize on the ground and not through statements. 'Urayqat added: If we talk about violence and counterviolence, 237 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli settlers and Army forces since the Oslo Agreement in 1993.

'Urayqat noted that no date for the coming round of talks has been set, adding that the teams need to go back to their leadership on this. He noted that there is no agreement to hold the next round of talks after 15 days, as the head of the Israeli delegation has mentioned. 'Urayqat emphasized that Cairo will remain the venue of any talks on the Palestinian legislative elections.

Joel Zinger, head of the Israeli team, stated earlier that a round of talks will be held with 'Urayqat in Jericho, where the Palestinian official resides. But 'Urayqat stressed that this meeting is not part of the negotiations on the Palestinian elections.

'Urayqat: 'No Agreement on Any Issue'

JN0802175595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks with Israel, in Cairo, by Yasir 'Aqili in the studio; date not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Aqili] Dr. Sa'ib, good evening.

['Urayqat] Good evening.

['Aqili] Two days after the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the elections intended to be held in the self-rule area, what is the outcome of these negotiations?

['Urayqat] We had hoped and had agreed to come to this round of talks and start a joint formulation of the issues that should be included in the phased agreement. As you know, the elections are part of the phased agreement, which also includes redeployment, revision of laws, and transferring the remaining powers in the West Bank. We proposed that an agreement include a preamble and then define the nature, the concept, and structure of the council that is to be elected. We proposed that the president be elected separately from the council and that the executive and legislative authorities be specified. We also proposed an agreement be reached on international monitoring, supervision, and the participation of the inhabitants of Jerusalem in the elections. I believe that it is essential to specify the concept and nature of the council to be elected. We were surprised that the Israeli delegation did not have any new stands regarding the council structure, the proposal to elect the president separately, or the number of the council members. Therefore, we were quite surprised to be required to formulate ideas regarding other details without first deciding on the nature of council proposed to be elected.

['Aqili] Dr. Sa'ib, if we wish to divide topics into two categories—the first comprising topics about which an agreement has been reached, and the second comprising topics about which no agreement has been reached. What are the topics that belong to each category?

['Urayqat] In fact, to be sincere, I can say that over 90 percent of the issues that should be covered in these negotiations about the elections have been covered. However, in fact, I cannot say that we have in hand any agreement on any issue. There has not been any agreement on any issue. Therefore, the objective behind this round has been to start joint work on the issues that should be included in the phased agreement, which I specified as international monitoring, supervision, the participation of the inhabitants of Jerusalem in the elections, the nature, concept, and structure of the council, and the separate election of the president. However, most regrettably, there have been no specific Israeli stands or answers to these basic issues. We hope that the Israeli delegation will come next time with a better vision so that we can start joint formulation.

['Aqili] Can you specify some issues over which an agreement has been reached, Dr. Sa'ib?

['Urayqat] As I said, all issues have been discussed, but there is no agreement on any issue, big or small. I cannot say that we now have any agreed-upon issue. Views and papers have been exchanged about many issues, but the objective behind the joint formulation or the second phase of the elections was to move from the stage of exchanging of views and papers to the stage of joint formulation in order to specify the points of agreement and the points of disagreement and to specify how to (?address) them. However, most regrettably, we have not been able to do so at this time.

['Aqili] Dr. Sa'ib, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat will meet at the Erez checkpoint tomorrow. Do you believe that the negotiations held today and yesterday resulted in any base upon which the two sides can build in tomorrow's talks?

['Urayqat] In fact, I was hoping to be able to submit a report to His Excellency President 'Arafat noting that progress has been achieved. However, regrettably, as I have noted, there has been no significant progress to help the success of tomorrow's summit. At any rate, the report on this round of talks is now on President 'Arafat's desk. We are awaiting new instructions regarding the future of these negotiations.

'Arafat, Rabin Hold Meeting at Erez Checkpoint

Talks Said To End in 'Deep Freeze'

TA0902110495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1037 GMT 9 Feb 95

[Interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by political correspondent Shlomo Raz following the Rabin-'Arafat meeting at the Erez checkpoint; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Raz] Does the length of the meeting show that extraordinary difficulties emerged?

[Sarid] No, the difficulties are known and were expected. It cannot be denied that there are difficulties and weighty problems in some of the negotiations which must be solved. I would say that the Israeli side is particularly worried about terror, while the Palestinian side is concerned about what it considers insufficient progress in the peace process.

It was decided to hold another meeting next week. I am sure that both sides will hold discussions and consolidate their positions.

[Raz] Let us be more specific. I understand that Israel did not comply with the Palestinian request to release prisoners and that there will be only a slight easing of the closure.

[Sarid] That is correct. We are very fearful that if the closure is further eased or lifted, we could, God forbid, witness other terror attacks. This is not an illusion or speculation. Our anxiety is based on very specific information. The government is committed to the security of Israel's citizens first and foremost, and our actions are based on that commitment.

As far as we are concerned, the closure is not the best solution, and we would prefer not to have a closure. Our national security interests, however, are above anything else.

[Raz] Minister Sarid, would I be right in saying that the meeting culminated in an explosion?

[Sarid] No, not at all. There was no explosion or even a crisis. Both sides reaffirmed their full commitment to the peace process. In negotiations, sometimes there are good and sometimes less good meetings. I think this meeting clarified to both sides the nature of the problems disturbing each of them. I assure you that these problems will be solved, that the commitment to the process remains unchanged, and that the next meetings will yield better results.

[Raz] Thank you, Minister Sarid. The least that can be said is that the meeting ended in a deep freeze.

Palestinians Reportedly 'Furious'

TA0902112395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1042 GMT 9 Feb 95

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem at the Erez checkpoint]

[FBIS Translated Text] I spoke with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the officer in charge of the Palestinian Authority's information portfolio, at the end of the meeting between Rabin and 'Arafat. The Palestinians are furious, but 'Abd-Rabbuh expressed himself very diplomatically. He said that the main argument revolved around the security issue. The Palestinians claim that the way to provide the Israelis with security is by making progress in the negotiations, while, according to 'Abd-Rabbuh, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin insists that security is a precondition for the continuation of the negotiations.

In any event, I understood from 'Abd-Rabbuh that 'Arafat is very angry and that the Palestinians are very displeased with the way the negotiations with Israel have been going, both with regard to the elections and the redeployment of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. 'Abd-Rabbuh said Israel does not understand the real needs of the Palestinians, especially the immediate need to lift the closure because of the serious economic distress of the residents of the territories.

Rabin Reportedly Rejects PLO Demands

NC0902105495 Paris AFP in English 1050 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Erez Crossing, Gaza Strip, Feb 9 (AFP)—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Thursday [9 February] rejected demands by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to lift the closure of the West Bank and Gaza or to free Palestinian prisoners, an Israeli minister said.

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said that Rabin had refused Arafat's demands during their talks at the Erez border crossing between Israel and Gaza.

Islamic Affairs

Muslim Brotherhood's Ideology Analyzed

NC0802161395 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 2-8 Feb p 2

[Report by Khalid Dawud and Amirah Huwaydi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two crossing swords, a copy of the Holy Koran and the word "prepare"—the first word of a Koranic verse exhorting Muslims to prepare all available force to fight their enemies—make up the Muslim Brotherhood's banner. Unlike political parties which projected various ideologies, the Brotherhood raised the banner of Islam in a country where religion has been indigenous for thousands of years.

Its founder, Imam Hasan al-Banna, was definitely not a man of religion only but also an astute politician. In order to ensure the group's survival and growth, he never pursued a confrontation with the royal regime of that time. Although he authored several books on Islamic ethics, he never detailed a political program, considering the call for the implementation of Shari'ah (Islamic law) adequate and comprehensive solution to all problems.

The Brotherhood never declared openly that they want to reach power, claiming that their goal is simply the implementation of Islamic teachings. They repeatedly declared readiness to support any government which sets out to pursue the same goal. Insisting that they are neither socialist nor capitalist but only "Muslims", they argued that the Koran and the teachings of Islam are more comprehensive than all man-made ideologies.

Their insistence that they speak in Islam's name has always provoked their opponents who are wary of what an Islamic state may do: suppressing the opposition and dividing the nation into believer and non-believer categories.

But for the Brotherhood's spokesman, Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, communists and atheists "who hate Islam" are behind the accusation that the group uses the cloak of religion to establish a theocratic state. Al-Hudaybi is a former judge who was jailed for 17 years by the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir.

Insisting that the Brotherhood never branded others as "kuffar" or non-believers, al-Hudaybi said it was the communists and atheists who were dividing the nation into Muslims and non-Muslims.

"Since 'Abd-al-Nasir adopted socialism, communists were given top positions. Even al-Sadat allowed some of them to stay in certain posts controlling the media. Now, after the fall of the Soviet Union, those Marxists call themselves secularists. They reject any Islamic rule because they are against religion," al-Hudaybi said.

What irks the Brotherhood's opponents apparently is the accusation that they are "against religion". Al-Sayyid Yasin, former director of the Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, said the Brotherhood's stand against democracy and liberalism is not only inherent in its ideology but is reflected in its support for oppressive regimes, such as those in Iran and Sudan, only because they raise the Islamic banner.

"But to support any Islamic regime, regardless of what it does, is a very dangerous matter," Yasin said. He rejected out of hand literature produced recently by the Brotherhood claiming commitment to the multi-party system and the principle of rotation of power.

In March 1994, the Brotherhood produced a 39-page pamphlet, defining their position on the status of women and multiparty politics. Following the old al-Banna strategy of projecting general guidelines without going into specifics, the pamphlet asserts the Brotherhood's commitment to democracy, which they call shura. They also took a largely liberal position on the status of women, saying they have equal rights with men to occupy all posts, except the presidency of the republic. Yet, within the lines lurks the important proviso that all these matters are accepted "within the framework of Islamic Shari'ah and the rules of Islam."

But who will define the rules of Islam or is it the prerogative of the Brotherhood alone? asks Yasin and other liberal intellectuals.

"All the documents they produced are only an attempt to gain political legitimacy. They believe that if they are able to form a political party, they will reach power," Yasin said.

Al-Hudaybi, for his part, accused those who question the Brotherhood's credibility of overstepping their limits. "They claim that they have entered our hearts and found out our real intentions. They say that everything we declare is a tactical manoeuvre. They are trying to impose this view on us, but isn't this oppression?" al-Hudaybi asked.

"We are open to discussion over many issues, but there are clear rules in the Koran which cannot be disputed or ignored. Or do they want us to change our religion in order to satisfy them?" he said.

Al-Hudaybi rejected comparisons between the Brotherhood and the Islamic regimes in Iran and Sudan. But he could not conceal his support for the Sudanese Government of Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir who seized power in a 1989 military coup after overthrowing Sadiq al-Mahdi's elected government.

"Was there any form of government under Al-Mahdi? It was all chaos. There was no coup in Sudan. The system collapsed and if power was not taken by Islamists, it would have gone to the Ba'thists in Saddam's pay. These are facts," al-Hudaybi said.

Opponents of the Brotherhood see in its support for al-Bashir's authoritarian government and condemnation of its precursor, al-Mahdi's democratically elected government, the classical argument of anti-democratic forces—equating democracy with chaos. But al-Hudaybi said that in countries like Sudan and Somalia, "loyalty is not to a political party but to the tribe. Do you go to people in this state and tell them I will give you liberalism?"

Al-Hudaybi revived the claim that "90 per cent of Egyptians support an Islamic state because Egypt is a Muslim country." This claim, however, was disputed by Yasin and other Brotherhood opponents.

Yasin conceded that there is a growing tide of religious fervour, but said this did not necessarily mean that 90 per cent of Egyptians support the Brotherhood or an Islamic state. "There is a big difference between being religious and being a militant with a political view. From this perspective, it is not accurate to say that most Egyptians support political Islamic groups," Yasin said.

Yasin detected a unity of goals between the Brotherhood and armed militant groups such as al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group], which the government brands as terrorist.

"They both have the same project, the establishment of an Islamic state. It is true that one of them (al-Jama'ah) believes in violence while the other (the Brotherhood) denounces it, but the unity of goals definitely creates sympathy," Yasin said.

He also rejected claims by al-Hudaybi that the state, by using excessive force, was responsible for the rising spiral of violence in southern Egypt. "The state is responsible for enforcing law and order. Any state would use force against any group which resorts to violence as a means of achieving its goals," he said.

Yasin believes that in view of the current wave of violence, legitimizing the Brotherhood as a political party would be a mistake that could lead to a scenario similar to what is happening in Algeria. "We are in a transitional stage from limited to enlarged multi-party politics. Such a transitional stage should be addressed carefully. When there is a crisis of alienation, unemployment and terrorism, this may not be the suitable time to open the door for all parties, as some people might vote for them out of anger and not out of real support," Yasin said.

But for Muhammad al-Sayyid Sa'id, deputy director of the AL-AHRAM Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, the Brotherhood should be incorporated into the democratic system, not excluded and suppressed, in order to induce a change in their views. "If they lost their belief in democracy and found out that even when they remained committed to its principles, they found themselves in jail, this might force them to resort to violence," Sa'id said.

Sa'id said he is certain the Brotherhood cannot win more than 15 per cent of the national vote if clean elections are held, mainly because the government's bureaucracy is so huge it can guarantee enough support.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 3 Feb

NC0702131895

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 3 February edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Dialogue Between Government, Islamic Groups Urged
2. Continuing Remand of Muslim Brotherhood Members Protested
3. Middle East Watch Accuses Police of Hostage-Taking
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6. Writer Discusses Muslims' Conditions in United States
7. Scholar Urges Change in Religious Priorities

DIALOGUE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, ISLAMIC GROUPS URGED

Speaking to the Foreign Press Association in Cairo on 30 January, "Islamic thinker" Dr. Muhammad 'Imarah is quoted as saying that he believes a dialogue between the government and the Islamic groups is possible. In an approximately 300-word report by Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid on page 1, Dr. 'Imarah is cited saying there was a previous attempt at dialogue by 25 ulema, authorized by group members to end the violence, but the attempt was foiled by some people who had an interest in maintaining the violence between the government and these groups. After voicing his rejection of violence, which he says is not in the nature of Islam and is harmful to the homeland and to the youth who engage in it, Dr. 'Imarah is quoted denouncing the recent detention campaigns and describing them as a sign of the suppression of freedom. He says the confrontation is not between the state and the Muslim Brotherhood, but between the state and the violent movements hostile to the Muslim Brotherhood.

CONTINUING REMAND OF MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS PROTESTED

An approximately 900-word report by Mu'tazz al-Hadidi on pages 1 and 6 says the State Security prosecutor has decided to renew the detention of five Muslim Brotherhood leaders for another 15 days. In protest, the professional associations plan to hold a massive rally at the Doctors Association on 5 February to "demand the release of the detained leaders of the professional associations," the report adds. It says further protests include coordination meetings among representatives of the professional associations, news conferences, and sit-ins. The report says the freedom committees of the professional associations met on 1 February at the main office of the Engineers Association to discuss practical measures to secure the release of their colleagues. The delegates urged human rights groups to intervene to secure the release of 26 fellow members, including university professors, doctors, engineers, teachers, and publishers. A statement issued by the delegates stated that the detainees "are facing flimsy accusations that suggest a policy of banning freedom of expression and opinion, peaceful gathering, and participation in public action in a democratic way."

MIDDLE EAST WATCH ACCUSES POLICE OF HOSTAGE-TAKING

A report on violence in Egypt by Middle East Watch, a U.S. group concerned with human rights, is highlighted on page 2. The approximately 2,500-word report notes: "Since 1992 Egypt has faced continuing political violence accompanied by increasing violations of human rights by both the security forces and the armed Islamic groups." While condemning the acts of violence committed by the Islamic Group against individuals and foreigners, Middle East Watch notes that these acts do not give "the other party the excuse to commit similar violations." The report notes that the Egyptian State Security Intelligence, the agency responsible for internal security in Egypt, is using "illegal" methods to tackle the problems, including "random arrests, solitary confinement, and the torture of suspects during questioning." The report adds: "This report concentrates on a practice that deserves condemnation, a practice undertaken by the security forces, namely, the detention and terror of innocent members of the Islamic Group's families, including women, children, and the elderly, to pressure their fugitive relatives to give themselves up to the authorities. They are terrifying families to remain silent about human rights violations and preventing them from submitting complaints or talking to journalists or to human rights activists." The report adds that since 1992, relatives of the fugitive members of the Islamic groups have been the main victims of "hostage-taking," the term used by these victims and Egyptian lawyers to describe the arrest of family members to force their relatives suspected of committing acts of violence against the state to give themselves up to the authorities. Several "hostage-taking" cases are cited in the report.

DETAINEE SPEAKS OF TORTURE IN PRISON

An approximately 1,500-word "appeal" signed by an unnamed "detainee" is published on page 6. In his message, entitled "The Atrocities of Torture in the Wadi al-Natrun Prison," the detainee describes his conditions at the prison, where he has been taken despite a court ruling issued for his release. He begins by describing beatings and verbal abuse that he says he and other detainees received when they arrived at the prison, which is off the Cairo-Alexandria desert road. He claims that the prisoners are often kept without clothes, except for "shorts," and that they are "whipped" on their backs. The prisoners, he adds, are not allowed to call for prayers. He points out that because of malnutrition and extreme dampness in the cells, which sometimes house over 20 people, many diseases have spread, including scabies. He concludes by saying that 10 inmates died after becoming sick and not getting adequate medical care. Dozens, he says, died after torture.

OFFICIAL VIEWS NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY, U.S. TREATMENT OF ISLAMISTS

In an approximately 4,000-word article on page 5, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn comments on the controversy over the signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the need for a political solution to tackle rising terrorism, and alleged U.S. support for terrorism. He begins by noting that the people are dismayed by unexplained changes in the regime's positions. Citing the issue of Israel's nuclear arsenal, Husayn points out that Israel's nuclear activity has gone on long, and asks: Why has the regime suddenly realized the danger of this threat for Egypt's security? But, he adds, the Labor Party welcomes "the change in policies, even if it is very late and comes without explanation or debate." But he adds that even if the government insists on not signing the treaty, such a position would be "worthless" from the legal point of view should two thirds of the treaty signatories decide to renew the mandate.

Turning to the growing confrontation between the police and "youths of the Islamic Group," Husayn suggests that the regime's policies could bring the country closer to the example of Algeria and its civil war. He adds: "We are facing something with which Egypt has never been familiar." He adds: "All the facts confirm that we are facing a centralized movement that organizes military operations and determines their goals and methods of action. It has been proved that this movement can adapt and gain new fighters to replace those who fall or are held captive." He contends that the police's extraordinary measures against these actions have failed and says that this highlights the need for policymakers to reconsider their policies and "end this massacre in which Egyptian youths are killing each other."

Husayn describes claims that the United States supports terrorism as "ridiculous." He asserts that the United States is "shaking" because of terrorism and fears its spread, knowing that terrorism is an enemy that is difficult to confront. He cites a report called "Terrorism in the Year 2000" prepared by Dr. Marvin Citron [name as published] for the U.S. Defense Department. The report, according to an interview with its author published in the London-based paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, gives a "horrifying picture of terrorism" and recommends several measures against it, particularly against "Islamic terrorists." Explaining the background to these accusations against the United States, Husayn says: "Simply put, the regime's rulers are noticing a change in the policy of the United States, which now differentiates between the way it treats the Islamic trends that seek to assume a role through reasoning and good counseling via general elections and the trends that carry weapons. Our government believes that this is submission and ignorance." He adds that the Egyptian Government considers all these trends to be terrorist movements that must be "eradicated." He adds: "If the United States rejects this logic, it will become a supporter of terrorism." Husayn points out that the United States has learned its lesson in Iran and realized that "flexibility" is necessary and that "accepting half solutions is better than a foolish confrontation in which it could lose everything." Instead of introducing political reforms to improve its image, he adds, the government insists on continuing to "arrest and pursue our party members and step up the campaign of detention against the Muslim Brotherhood members." He concludes by telling the rulers that these measures will finish them off, that they will not stop the cycle of blood, and that the regime's enemies and former allies will not come to their rescue.

WRITER DISCUSSES MUSLIMS' CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

A report from Washington by 'Abd-al-Fattah Fayid on the conditions of the approximately 6 million Muslims in America is published on page 7. In his approximately 2,500-word report, the writer points out that although Muslims outnumber Jews in the United States, the influence of the Jewish community on the U.S. decision-makers far outweighs that of the Muslim community. He cites 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Amudi, executive director of the U.S. Islamic Council, as saying that the U.S. Administration has started to realize the growing power of the Muslims in the United States and has not adopted a hostile attitude toward them. Proof of this is Vice President Al Gore's visit to the Washington Islamic Center, he adds. Al-'Amudi points out that among the problems facing Muslims in the United States is that few of them care to show interest in public affairs and that the majority, particularly those coming from the Middle East, fail to realize that in democratic societies "if you have no influence, you do not survive." The writer points out that there are scores of Islamic centers throughout the country housing libraries, sports centers, and auditoriums. He says most Americans he has met are not against Islam, but are influenced by the negative propaganda disseminated by the Jewish media.

SCHOLAR URGES CHANGE IN RELIGIOUS PRIORITIES

Prominent Islamic scholar Dr. Yusuf al-Qaradawi, in an approximately 2,500-word article on page 9, says he believes that the "balance of priorities" for Muslim countries and individuals is disorderly. He explains that many pious Muslims donate hundreds of thousands of pounds or dollars to build a mosque, for instance, but if, when they are asked to donate half or even a quarter of this amount to establish Islamic shari'ah, combat infidelity or atheism, or support Islamic action, they decline. He adds: "This is because they believe in building monuments, not building men." Other Muslims spend lavishly on annual pilgrimages or minor pilgrimages. He adds: "If you ask them to give these same annual expenses to fight the Jews in Palestine or the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina, resist the Christian missionary invasion in Indonesia of Bangladesh or other African and Asian states, to set up a center for call or for preparing specialized preachers, or to compose, translate, and publish sound Islamic books, they turn their heads away arrogantly." He adds that this "great disorder" in the nation's priorities sees the nation badly in need of a "jurisprudence of priorities" that would define and explain things and set its mind toward helping the welfare of the nation.

Palestinian Affairs

EU Troika Meets With Officials at Orient House

TA0902121495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The troika of European ministers visiting the Middle East met this morning with a Palestinian delegation headed by Faysal al-Husayni at Orient House in East Jerusalem. The meeting went ahead after the High Court of Justice decided to discuss a petition from Jewish settlers next month on the activities of the Orient House.

The Europeans stressed their commitment to the Oslo agreement and the peace process, and the Palestinians suggested ways in which the EU can help the process. More on the controversial meeting at the Orient House from reporter Mark Weiss:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin had asked the troika not to visit the Orient House, but the Europeans refused. The meeting was then termed a courtesy visit, but in actual fact, it had all the trappings of a diplomatic meeting. [passage omitted]

None of the troika spoke after the meeting. The Palestinian delegation, headed by Faysal al-Husayni, referred to the meeting as a working session and not a courtesy call.

[Al-Husayni] What we are discussing and what we discussed here is about the peace process and about problems that we are facing here in Jerusalem. I believe that these meetings was going on before Oslo and after Oslo, and I don't know why they are angry about this matter. Nothing has been changed here in Jerusalem, and everything can be discussed only after starting the negotiations about Jerusalem, and when we will end these negotiations, then we will reconsider the position of the Orient House.

[Weiss] Ziyad Abu-Zayyad stressed that the Orient House is the headquarters of the Palestinian peace delegation and not a building of the Palestinian Authority.

[Abu-Zayyad] I don't understand why the Israelis made a big fuss about this meeting. I believe that they made an issue out of it, but it's not an issue. This thing was happening in the past, and the Israeli Government accepted it and even they were supporting it. I don't understand why now, under the pressure of the right wing in Israel, the Israeli Government is surrendering to the right wing and making an issue out this thing.

[Weiss] And the right wing was keeping the pressure on this morning with a colorful and noisy protest by 30 or so members of the Women in Green opposite the Orient House. Three people wore monkey costumes with the French, Spanish, and German flags, and placards reading: "Hear no evil, see no evil, and speak no evil." There was also the Lion of Judah—Yitzhaq Rabin—and the lion tamer in a Yasir 'Arafat mask. [passage omitted] [end recording]

PA's al-Tarifi Urges 'Hastening' of Peace Process

NC0902084095 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 9 Feb 95

[Telephone interview with Jamil al-Tarifi, a member of the Palestinian Authority, in Ramallah, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on 9 February—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Jundi] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Tarifi] Thank you, brother.

[Al-Jundi] Let us begin our dialogue with the Palestinian-Israeli summit meeting that is due to take place at the Erez checkpoint today. Do you believe this meeting will add anything new to your relations with the Israelis?

[Al-Tarifi] You know of course that this summit follows Cairo's quadripartite meeting involving His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, His Majesty King Husayn, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. During the quadripartite meeting, it was agreed to hold a two-way Palestinian-Israeli summit to discuss unresolved issues between the two sides, particularly following recent incidents, specifically the Bet Lid operation near Netanya. We expect that each side will present its views on how the peace process can continue, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track. A round of negotiations on the elections issue ended last night. I believe there is nothing new on this. You know the Israelis always raise the security issue and stress that the Palestinian Authority [PA] must do its utmost to maintain security in accordance with its commitment so that violent attacks against Israeli targets are not launched from the area under the PA's jurisdiction.

[Al-Jundi] Al-Tarifi, several violent attacks have recently been staged against Israeli citizens. How can anyone formulate a specific strategy to separate violent acts from the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating process?

[Al-Tarifi] First, the PA has clearly denounced the recent violent acts. The attacks were condemned by the highest officials, including President 'Arafat. But there are some issues to be considered. The Israelis are violating their agreement with the Palestinians in several ways. During the last meeting between President 'Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin, we submitted a long list of Israeli violations of the Palestinian-Israeli Cairo agreement. The Israelis are violating the agreement daily. Consequently Palestinian citizens are feeling that the peace process is futile because of the repeated Israeli violations. The Israeli Government and its various agencies and departments must adhere to the peace process. We are not setting this out as a condition for maintaining security. We appreciate Israel's security concerns. We adhere to the commitment imposed on us by the Cairo agreement. But you cannot ask us to be Israel's policeman. As you know, the operations occurred inside Israel, not inside the PA areas. But several Israeli violations of the peace agreement occur every day. Examples include closing the Gaza-Jericho safe passage and sealing off Gaza and the West Bank. These things are done although the Israeli prime minister and the Israeli foreign minister have repeatedly stated that they have no evidence of any Palestinian laborer participating in the violence.

[Al-Jundi] Can we say that today's expected meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin is an extension of Cairo's recent four-way summit?

[Al-Tarifi] Precisely. We, the Palestinians, and the Israelis understand that violent attacks are designed to halt the peace process and abort the existing agreements. We must pursue a strategy of pressing ahead with the negotiations in a real spirit of peace and hasten the talks, particularly the negotiations pertaining to the West Bank's transitional status.

[Al-Jundi] Is the only way to hasten the peace process to check the violence in the Palestinian territories and the occupied West Bank?

[Al-Tarifi] Precisely. Additionally, there must be a halt to settlement activity. Settlement is continuing in the West Bank. The Palestinians have started to feel that the peace process has brought them nothing new. They see conditions deteriorating. The PA is committed to security and even to the conditions imposed on it by the agreement. But the Israeli Government must also adhere to all the provisions of the agreement. We must convince the Palestinian and Israeli people that something changed when the peace agreement was signed. The Israeli citizen feels that the security situation is more difficult now than before. The Palestinian public also feels that in numerous spheres things have become more difficult than before the establishment of the PA.

[Al-Jundi] Al-Tarifi, let us return to Cairo's recent quadripartite summit involving President Mubarak, Palestinian President 'Arafat, King Husayn of Jordan, and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin. In the words of Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, this summit was a peace coalition. Let me raise Egypt's current role and its success in breaking the ice between the Palestinians and the Israelis during that summit.

[Al-Tarifi] We always appreciate the roles played by Egypt and His Excellency President Husni Mubarak in promoting the peace process. We also appreciate Egypt's pioneering and historical role in the region and its pioneering peace role. This is nothing new. We also appreciate Egypt's very great role in backing the Palestinian people and the PA. The Cairo summit really broke the ice and brought the Palestinians and Israelis back to the negotiating table. It highlighted something basic that the Israelis must understand. Without hastening the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track, there will be no regional peace. The Israelis must understand this. There is a Palestinian-Israeli peace treaty [as heard]. There is a Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. We hope to see a Syrian-Lebanese-Israeli peace treaty. I believe that without progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track, the entire regional peace process will be at stake. The Israelis must understand this.

[Al-Jundi] Al-Tarifi, PA member and the official in charge of liaison with the Israelis, the Voice of the Arabs thanks you very much.

[Al-Tarifi] I thank you and the Voice of the Arabs.

'Arafat Establishes 'Higher State Security Court'

JN0902080495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Feb 95

["Text" of decision issued by Yasir 'Arafat establishing a Higher State Security Court; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Taking cognizance of Articles 23 and 59 of the Constitutional Law of the Gaza Strip issued on 5 March 1962 and of Decision No. 55 for 1964 regarding the formation and powers of military courts; in accordance with the powers entrusted to him; and in view of public interests:

First, a Higher State Security Court shall be established under the chairmanship of a ranking officer and in which less ranking officers shall be members.

Second, the Higher State Security Court shall decide on security crimes both inside and outside [the Palestinian Authority area], as well as on crimes mentioned in Order No. 555 for 1957. Public prosecution shall present these cases in this court.

Third, the Higher State Security Court shall implement all valid Palestinian laws, regulations, rules, and orders in accordance with Article 69 of the Constitutional Law of the Gaza Strip issued on 5 March 1962.

Fourth, this decision shall become effective as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Purpose of Special Court Detailed

TA0802170095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Yasir 'Arafat has ordered the establishment of a special court to try Palestinians who commit what were termed security crimes. The announcement came as Palestinian police continued the crackdown on opposition groups inside the Gaza Strip. On this, Mark Weiss:

[Weiss] The decree signed by Yasir 'Arafat establishes a special court to try Palestinians charged with security crimes, committed both in the autonomy and outside. The judges will be members of the autonomy's security forces, although no appointments have yet been announced.

The director general of the Palestinian Authority's Justice Department, Colonel Hasan Abu-Libdah, said this supreme court of state security will confront all cases of violations of national security which threaten the safety and security of what he termed our country.

Despite a series of arrests of opposition elements following previous terrorist attacks, nobody has yet been tried by a Palestinian court and convicted of an offense. The decision to establish the court could be a move by Yasir 'Arafat to answer Israeli criticism that the Palestinian Authority is not doing enough to act against the opponents of the peace process. [passage omitted]

Intelligence Service Foils Hamas Suicide Operation

TA0802150495 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 6 Feb 95 p 1 (Tentative)

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The General Intelligence Service in Gaza foiled a suicide operation by an 18-year-old youth that was slated to take place in the blessed month of Ramadan under the supervision of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Two weeks ago, the Intelligence Service detained the youth, who lives in Gaza city and is a high school student. The youth's family said that three masked Hamas men used to sit with him three times daily in one of the mosques to urge him to become a martyr and meet God, the angels, and the prophets. They promised that they would pay his father 1,000 Jordanian dinars immediately after his martyrdom and that they would take care of his brothers.

The youth was released last week after a six-day detention during which he was persuaded by his interrogators in the Intelligence Service not to carry out such operations. The youth was handed over to his family after it promised to protect him.

During the search of the youth's home, the Intelligence Service discovered a video cassette that showed the youth reading his will and asking the forgiveness of his father and brothers. [passage omitted]

Jihad, Hamas Arms Said Smuggled In Via Tunnels

MM0802160095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Feb 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The Gaza Strip, Information Service center—According to Hamas' security official in the southern Gaza Strip, Hamas' security service can perform its security tasks much better than the Palestinian Authority's security services. The official said that his movement's [security] service "is devoted to resisting the Israeli occupation. And we strongly reject Iran's oneupmanship aimed at sparking off civil war in the Strip for the sake of a few dollars."

This came in an open interview with this Hamas official, who asked to remain anonymous. He reemphasized that the shedding of Palestinian blood by Palestinian hands is prohibited. On Hamas' financial situation at present he said: "It is very bad due to the deterioration in aid since the second Gulf war. Most of the movement's annual budget goes now to the military service, namely the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions [IQB], to purchase weapons and ammunition. As for the infrastructure, it is suffering a shortage of financial resources."

Meanwhile, Muhammad 'Abdallah, known as Abu-Islam, has said that the IQB service has broadened its circles in the Gaza Strip. And that most of its elements are secret and you would find them everywhere, even inside the Palestinian Authority's services.

Muhammad 'Abdallah (33) denied reports that Hamas is weak militarily. He pointed out that "Hamas has a stockpile of various weapons sufficient for the jihad for the next five years."

No one in the Strip doubts that Hamas possesses a lot of weapons, especially as Israel worked before its withdrawal from Gaza to spread and sell weapons to ignite civil conflicts and abort the self-rule experiment. Anyone who had some money bought weapons and ammunition, storing them as a reserve. Hamas was one of the biggest buyers. This is in addition to other sources of weapons which are still available and possible, most importantly smuggling and buying from the Israeli underground world, stealing soldiers' weapons and sometimes buying the weapons from them, and in fact even buying antitank missiles, which Israel admitted were stolen from warehouses. One of these missiles was used recently against a settlement in the West Bank. Furthermore, the explosives used in the Islamic Jihad's martyrdom operation in Bet Lid were obtained from Israel for money, according to Jihad elements.

Regarding the political situation in Hamas a senior Hamas official in Gaza said that political disagreements have weakened the performance of the IQB service, the movement's military arm, despite the resources available to the service and its extensive presence. The official admits that the weakness is attributable to the differences inside Hamas' political leadership in Gaza. He cited the names of four figures, who he said are the cause of the dispute: Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, Isma'il Haynah, and Sayyid Abu-Musamih.

In a friendly meeting attended by Hamas and Islamic Jihad members and some arms smugglers, a Jihad cadre, namely M.M.'A., from Rafah, in the south of the Strip, said that "the enemy must continue to be hit in geographical depth through martyrdom operations." He added that "we are using Israeli weapons to hit the Israeli enemy. We have our elements everywhere in Palestine, in the West Bank and the 1948 areas. Our military operations are planned on the basis of our elements, who are everywhere. Some of them buy the explosives from the Israelis themselves, and others carry out the operations. True, our elements are not as numerous as those of Hamas or other movements, but we are organized and believe in the justice of our cause, and we will continue to fight the Jews until the Day of Judgment."

Another Jihad official said that "stockpiling weapons in warehouses and purchasing arsenals of weapons is useless because guarding them is going to be a burden." He added: "What is the benefit of purchasing thousands of weapons and tonnes of ammunition to stockpile in the Gaza Strip? We are not going to fight the Authority, nor are we going to fight one another. The crucial factor is successful military operations that hurt the enemy and cause him to lose his balance and ability to think."

On Israel's ability to eliminate Israeli [as published] elements in the Strip he said, "Yes, Shin Bet (Israeli internal security service) can eliminate anyone. Martyr Hani 'Abid was blown up in his car two months after the Palestinian Authority's arrival. But what was the Islamic Jihad's response? Our response was violent. We avenged Hani 'Abid's murder by killing scores of soldiers. I say that Israel can, but it fears the response of our military service, which did not and will not have mercy on it, and which hurts Israel a lot by its daring martyrdom operations."

These elements say that Hamas' and Jihad's weapons are obtained from Israel and through smuggling across the border with Egypt. Weapons are also smuggled via Bi'r al-Sab' across the Israeli border with the Strip. One of the people who smuggle weapons through secret tunnels between Egyptian Rafah and Palestinian Rafah said that it is important to fight drug and gold smuggling and to concentrate only on arms smuggling through tunnels. He added that "every country knows the owners of these tunnels. Most of them smuggle gold and drugs; the authorities should fight these. But weapons are used to fight the occupation, and all smugglers should have engaged in the arms trade only."

Actually the tunnels are secret, and the Palestinian Authority does not know their locations. Israel too has failed in the past to destroy them. It is still trying to, even though Israel is guarding and watching the border between the Strip and Egypt.

As is known, the occupation authorities discovered over 30 tunnels between the two parts of Rafah, which are separated by the border fence. That happened on the eve of the withdrawal from Sinai and the city's partition in 1982. Israel dug a tunnel 10 meters deep alongside the border to prevent the establishment of tunnels. But it failed to destroy them completely.

Sh.A.H., a former Fatah hawk, spoke about the period that preceded the Palestinian Authority's arrival. He said that 'Adil Musa, a Jihad outlaw who is held in Egypt, wanted to cross through a tunnel after discovering it. 'Adil entered the tunnel and moved toward the Egyptian side, but he found at the end of the tunnel narrow pipes just big enough for arms, gold, and money but not wide enough for a person to pass through. He returned and asked the tunnel's owner about the secret of this construction. The owner replied: So that the border will not tempt us to move to the other side. The same applies to a colleague on the other side. And also in order for us not to weaken before financial temptations as regards smuggling people. Israel is prepared to overlook anything except smuggling individuals.

Ahmad Abu-Fadl spent four years in prison after a tunnel was discovered in his house, situated some 180 meters from the border. Ahmad said that all tunnels are dug on the basis of one gate. [sentence as published] Working in tunnels is dangerous. This is why complete secrecy is a must. The wife and children often do not know that there is a tunnel under their house. He said that his tunnel was discovered by accident when his house was stormed like all the houses on the border. He ruled out that his house was stormed because of defamation, since "I deal with trustworthy people whom I know well."

M.M.A. (40), who lives near the border and is close to arms traders, says that he gets commission on every piece of arms he sells. He stresses that the owners of the tunnels deal with all smuggled items, including arms for the organizations. And they get a huge commission to smuggle arms. He said: Egyptian and Russian arms are smuggled through the tunnels. Foreign and Israeli arms are smuggled via Bi'r al-Sab' and the eastern and northern borders of the Strip, and no smuggling takes place by sea.

Hamas Official on Contacts With U.S. in Amman

NC0802183295 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 1 Feb 95 p 11

[Interview with Hamas representative Abu-Muhammad Mustafa by Kamal Ibrahim; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ibrahim] You have been taken to task for holding contacts with the Americans in Amman. How do you explain this?

[Mustafa] We are an open movement, and in our political position, we are not closed to anyone who wants to talk to us, except the Zionist enemy, whom we refuse to talk to because it is occupying our land. We are prepared to hold a dialogue about our cause with any party and with any country. We talk to the enemies in order to neutralize them and reduce their enmity; we talk to neutral parties to win their support for the Palestinian cause; and we talk to friends to increase their support for our cause. We are a people with a cause. We met with the Americans at the U.S. Embassy in Amman. Yes, Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah and engineer Muhammad Nazzal met with some members of the U.S. Embassy in Amman during the deportation of the 415 brothers to south Lebanon in 1993. They met with officials from the U.S. Embassy, and they met with officials from many other embassies to explain Hamas' viewpoint and to encourage whoever could be encouraged to support the cause of the deportees. What happened was a political dialogue and explanation of various positions. We disagreed with them and they disagreed with us, and this is good. We have not yet closed the door to a political dialogue with the Americans. We do not consider this an indication of weakness for Hamas; on the contrary, we consider it shows vitality and openness by the movement. We broke of the dialogue in Amman after we requested that the meetings be expanded or upgraded to involve our movement in Amman and the American ambassador—not just a counselor or some of his aides. When this request was rejected, we decided not to continue the meetings. The United States announced it had broken off its meetings with Hamas, but the fact is that we were the ones who broke them off. [passage omitted]

Hamas Spokesman: 1995 Year of Decision, Conflict

MM0802165095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Feb 95 pp1, 4

[Report by 'Ali Nun: "Ghawshah Tells AL-HAYAH: 1995 Will Be Year of Decision and It Will Be Either Us...Or Rabin, Oslo, and Abu-'Ammar; Arrest Campaign in Gaza, 'Arafat Pledges To 'Uproot Terrorism'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, occupied Jerusalem, Gaza, AL-HAYAH—The Israeli Army in the occupied West Bank and the Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip launched a large-scale arrests campaign beginning at dawn yesterday. Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), in a telephone statement to AL-HAYAH, spoke of the movement's "ordeal" as a result of that campaign but he said that 1995 "will be the year of decision and (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin knows that the battle is fierce and the result will be [survival of] either Hamas or him and his government.... It will continue until he and the Oslo agreement fall, followed by (Palestinian President Yasir) 'Arafat."

In Gaza, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] announced that 60 of its members had been arrested. Meanwhile, U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown said after meeting with the Palestinian president that 'Arafat pledged, before him, to "uproot violence and terrorism." [passage omitted]

Hamas Spokesman Ghawshah told AL-HAYAH that the new arrests which followed the Netanya operation were a continuation of the campaign which followed the movement's operation in Tel Aviv on 19 October 1994, and that the campaign has so far covered about 1,500 people in the West Bank alone. "Rabin is trying to deal a crippling blow to Hamas and the [Islamic] Jihad so that 'Arafat would have a free hand." He said that "the answer to that campaign is patience and continuation."

In reply to a question, he said that "Hamas, with all its military and civilian branches, is going through an ordeal under the weight of the Zionist offensive which is supported by the United States. We will be able to overcome it. The Marj al-Zuhur deportees experience is an example of the steadfastness, endurance, and quality of the young men raised by the Islamic movement. Furthermore, the unlimited sympathy of the Arab and Islamic nations (not regimes) gives the movement more hope."

He said that the main reason for "Hamas' ordeal" is the large number of its supporters and sympathizers in detention. "There are about 4,000 members in Israeli prisons. They have families who need aid and support." He said that the measures taken by Clinton regarding sources of finance for some groups and individuals in the United States "have not affected us much because we have no offices there."

Ghawshah added: "Rabin is trying to deal us a major blow. He does so for his own survival because he knows that the result of the battle will be either us or him and his government. It is a fierce battle and the movement will stand fast and will be able to continue the resistance." He continued: "Rabin is going through a crisis and so is 'Arafat. The Cairo tripartite summit was held to rescue both because theirs is a relationship akin to a Catholic marriage, if one falls, the other will fall after him."

Ghawshah believes that " 'Arafat has so far failed to deliver any of the things he had been talking about such as pluralism and democracy, because he is factional to the bone and his scale is one of loyalty not efficiency. His link with Rabin is a link of destiny." In reply to a question, he said that Hamas is striving to "end the occupation whether it is under the Labor Party or Likud. The truth is that the Labor Party is more dangerous than Likud, and I believe that even the group of Oslo and the so-called peace process have reached the same conclusion." He also expressed the view that a Likud assumption of power "would provoke larger sectors of the Palestinian people, and everyone would know then that the only way is resistance and jihad. If we reach such a conclusion then Hamas will have rendered our people a great service."

Ghawshah said that "1995 will be the year of decision as far as the Oslo and other agreements are concerned and as far as continuation of the Syrian track is concerned. That will determine who will gain power in the (next) elections, but continuation of the jihad operations would make the end of Rabin and the Labor Party a certainty. It will be the year of violent conflict and every party will bring out whatever forces it has to fulfill its objectives."

Hamas Spokesman Ghawshah on Elections, Arrests

NC0802215295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1755 GMT 8 Feb 95

[Interview with Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by Mahdi Hasan; place and date not given; from the "News and Reports" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Hasan] Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, U.S. Trade Minister Ronald Brown said after his meeting with 'Arafat in Gaza that the latter pledged that he would eradicate what he called terrorism, meaning jihad operations. Does this mean that 'Arafat has responded to Rabin's demand that the Palestinian Authority take upon itself the task of oppressing the Islamic resistance against occupation? There are reports that the Palestinian police forces are carrying out large-scale arrests among Palestinian Islamists.

[Ghawshah] No doubt, arrests in Gaza are still continuing. Before that, similar large-scale arrests were made by his master—that is, the Zionist occupation. Some 1,500 people have been arrested in the West Bank alone since the Tel Aviv attack in October 1994. This was accompanied by an extensive campaign against Islamic institutions. And more than 250 people have been arrested since the Bet Lid operation. The disciple, 'Arafat, who precisely implements what the Zionist occupation wants, began a vicious campaign against the Palestinian opposition forces, such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, and lately the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. 'Arafat is trying to please his Zionist and American masters with these arrests and raids, which occur especially at night, and he is trying to win the master's approval for a small expansion in the West Bank cantons, which is the maximum the Zionist enemy can offer 'Arafat in the West Bank.

[Hasan] Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, the enemy has reversed its decision banning the participation of Palestinian opposition forces in the elections. Now the enemy says the opposition can participate. How can you explain this? Is it an attempt to contain the opposition, especially after the failure of 'Arafat and his self-rule authority?

[Ghawshah] These political moves are one of the maneuvers the Zionist enemy and the enemies of the Islamic nation have mastered. Some of them oppose, as Rabin did, and others support, as some Labor Party doves did. That is how they try to lure the Islamic movement. They naively think that the Islamic movement is inexperienced, although the experience of this movement extends throughout the 20th century. The Islamic movement determined early its position on the so-called self-rule elections. It stressed that it refuses to participate in these elections because they are being organized under the auspices of the Oslo Agreement and because they are one of the mechanisms of that agreement. Any participation in these elections implicitly means accepting and acknowledging the Oslo Agreement and, consequently, recognizing the Zionist entity—something the opposition Islamic movement cannot do. Regarding other issues through which the Palestinian Authority, supported by Zionist instructions, is trying to contain the Islamic movement—by engaging it in political work at the expense of jihad work—we say that the Islamic movement knows fully that the backbone of its strategy is resistance and jihad. This, of course does not mean dropping political and media work. Finally, and in brief, we stress that attempts by the Zionist entity and the United States, through 'Arafat, to contain the Islamic movement will utterly fail, and that the movement will continue its jihad and struggle, God willing.

[Hasan] Thank you Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah.

[Ghawshah] You are welcome.

DFLP Activists, 'Prominent' Hamas Leader Arrested

TA0902085995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Some 80 activists of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] were arrested by the Palestinian police last night, bringing the number of men detained since the terror attack near Nahal 'Oz to 150. Our correspondent in Gaza Eli Bohadana reports:

[Bohadana] [passage omitted] The wave of arrests did not bypass the Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Dr. Mahir al-Ghazali, a prominent Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip and a member of the board of directors of the Islamic University in Gaza, has been arrested. According to the Palestinian police, he slandered 'Arafat in a speech he delivered in Gaza last Friday. [passage omitted]

Bomb Explodes Near Gaza; No Injuries Reported

TA0902063595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A roadside bomb exploded this morning close to a Palestinian outpost near the Qatif Bloc. The bomb was apparently meant to hit an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol. Nobody was hurt.

Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the explosion occurred very close to where the road turns into Netzarim, a few meters from a Palestinian outpost. An IDF patrol had driven by the site shortly before the bomb went off.

Cairo Summit's 'Message' to Israel Viewed

TA0702180295 Jericho AL-AQSA in Arabic 4 Feb 95 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "The Summit's Message to Tel Aviv"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The results of the Cairo summit were not at the level desired by the Palestinians, especially since the issue of settlement activity was not addressed in the final communique. In reality, however, the summit constituted a red light for Tel Aviv and its policy that seeks to generalize the political settlement by circumventing the Palestinian problem and its centrality in the conflict. Tel Aviv is trying to do so through its attempt to confine the modest beginnings of a political solution within their current bounds under the famous security slogan, which it raises with or without reason to justify its expansionist settlement policy, which contravenes the core of the peace process.

We understand that this summit represents a clear message to Rabin's government that the Palestinian problem is the only invariable factor on the Arab level regardless of how bad the Arab solution might be, and that this government should abandon the illusion of moving toward the Arab world by attempting to confine the Palestinian present and future within the bounds of the government's occupation perception. This is a perception that encroaches upon the land, foremost of all Jerusalem, and upon the national rights of the Palestinian people, above all the right to establish their Palestinian state.

Thus, the summit stated very clearly that moving toward the Arab world can only take place if the Palestinian problem is fully resolved. Otherwise, there will not be peace, nor will the Palestinians alone mourn in the region.

The experience of the past months, from the Cairo agreement to the Cairo summit, has proved that Tel Aviv's illusion is behind the impasse that has brought the political process to the brink of collapse. Will Tel Aviv absorb the summit's message?

Only the coming few days and weeks can provide an answer to this question. If Tel Aviv continues with its current policy, the result will be a drift toward collapse, but if it changes its policy, the summit will have opened the way to a new stage of political settlement. Let us wait and see.

Until the waiting ends, we affirm that the peace that leads to stability in the Middle East cannot be established unless a Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital is established.

AL-AQSA Calls Netanyahu Program 'Illusion'

TA0702182695 Jericho AL-AQSA in Arabic 7 Feb 95 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Netanyahu's Illusion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Apparently, Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the opposition Israeli Likud Party, forgot that the time of miracles has long passed when in his so-called electoral platform he mentioned that there are Palestinians who are holding contacts with him and who are ready to accept less than a Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. This is a futile attempt to revive the policy of alternatives to the PLO to which Tel Aviv resorted throughout the years of occupation. This policy ended in utter failure every time that Tel Aviv thought it had succeeded, the most famous example of which was the stillborn Village Leagues.

Despite this, we do not dismiss the possibility that Netanyahu may have found some "collaborators" who have taken refuge inside the Green Line and are now being rejected by the occupation itself after having been rejected by our own people. Netanyahu was probably talking about these "collaborators" when he said there are Palestinians who are ready to accept less than a state.

These "collaborators" became Israelis a long time ago and are no longer counted as Palestinians except by Netanyahu. We do not believe there is any Palestinian that can even entertain the thought of engaging in the game of alternatives. The fate of anyone who does so is known to everyone without exception.

We would not have discussed Netanyahu's illusion had he not linked it to an occupation mentality which entertains the belief that there are people ready to accept what he is proposing if they feel they have no option other than to accept the reality of the occupation.

We pity Netanyahu and his ilk. We recall that the equation that governs our Palestinian stance, regardless of political parties and affiliations, involves eitherending the occupation or resisting until it ends. There is no third option except proceeding with the political process, leading to an end to the occupation of our Palestinian land, foremost of all Jerusalem. It does not make any difference for us whether the Labor Party or the Likud is in power to face this equation, which governs our stance and is not subject to discussion or debate.

Netanyahu, as well as all the leaders of Tel Aviv, should realize that security cannot be achieved through the logic of force, but only if the current political solution reaches its clear Palestinian outcome in the establishment of a state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Algeria

GIA Claims 30 Jan Blast, Predicts 'Month of Murder'

MM0902121095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Feb 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algiers, London, AL-HAYAH—An atmosphere of estrangement between Algeria and France has begun to loom on the horizon. This was seen yesterday in the Algerian media's attack on President Francois Mitterrand, accusing him of "interfering in Algerian affairs," hours after his proposal to convene a European conference to discuss the situation in Algeria. Algeria recalled its ambassador to Paris to talk about Mitterrand's proposal.

Meanwhile, the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] issued a statement, claiming responsibility for the security directorate explosion last Monday [30 January], stressing that two of its elements "carried out the martyrdom operation." [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH yesterday received a statement from the GIA signed by its leader, Abu-Abderrahmane Amin, stressing its responsibility for the security directorate explosion. The statement said that the "mujahidin in the land of Islam in Algeria are continuing their extensive military operations against the forces of the apostate enemy. This was embodied in the martyrdom operation carried out by two mujahidin from the battalion 'Those Who Sign With Blood.' They were able to reach the enemy's heart and explode a booby-trapped car carrying a huge shipment of explosives amounting to 130 kg of TNT. It happened on Monday 30 Sha'ban 1415 H, corresponding to 30 January 1995, at 1515 hrs. A large number of the apostate enemy's forces were killed."

The statement added: "The GIA has men who like to die.... We offered in this operation two men who were like towering mountains; one was 16." The statement stressed that the target was "the security directorate, which has for decades been a center of torture, murder, and dispossession. So many Muslim bodies have been crushed by the barbaric machines of torture. And so many of.... [ellipsis as published] Therefore, this infidel structure must be removed. This hellish center—which is constantly producing groups of torturers, Satans, and terrorists—must be destroyed."

The statement pointed out that "there will be no rest, calm, or gentleness. The blessed month of Ramadan is the month of murder, fighting, conquests, and victories. And all mujahidin must intensify jihad military action."

In a reference to the fall of innocent people as a result of the explosion, the statement said that the GIA "takes account of legitimate means and methods, and we are not infallible, since errors are usually made in wars. And it [GIA] pledges before God to apply the Shari'ah on itself at the organization's various levels and in the various spheres. If any errors are made against anyone, the Group is obliged to rectify and apologize for them."

In London, Arab sources have told AL-HAYAH that a young woman from the Islamic Salvation Army carried out a suicide attack targeting the security directorate, followed by two attacks on the Defense Ministry building and the Golf club.

Prime Minister: Islamic World Facing Specter of New Fascism

LD0802192195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Sifi attended celebrations today marking 37th anniversary of the bloody events of Sakiet Sidi Youssef. On the occasion, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi delivered a speech, in which he talked about the lessons which could be learned from these events, which would help to face up to the present and future challenges of the Arab Maghreb region, and bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The prime minister said that the Islamic world, which is on the threshold of the 21st century, is facing the specter of a new type of fascism which is trying to monopolize God's message in order to destroy youth's hopes for modernism, prosperity, and freedom.

Talking about the political crisis, which has led to the spilling of blood in Algeria, the prime minister said that this is not due to the interruption of the electoral process. He said that if that was the case there would be no better solution than the resumption of this process, starting with the presidential elections, before the end of the year. Therefore, he added, the crisis which is shaking Algeria is due to the fact that some men want to achieve power by allying themselves with the ugliest forms of terrorism in the world.

The prime minister also denounced the positions of some foreign capitals which give shelter to terrorists, and from where calls are being made for the destruction of Algeria.

Madani in Hospital; Belhadj Under House Arrest

MM0902102095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Feb 95 p 1

[Report by Qusay Salih al-Darwish: "Madani's Son Visits Him in Hospital; Belhadj Moved to Another Residence]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris—[Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] sources have confirmed what authoritative Algerian circles said yesterday, namely that Abassi Madani is now in hospital. The FIS sources said that Madani's son visited him in hospital on Sunday and Monday. As for Ali Belhadj, members of his family bring him the newspapers every day. They give the newspapers to the guards at the entrance to the Djenan El Mufti villa. The guards take the newspapers from them without saying anything.

However, reliable sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Belhadj has been moved to another residence which is less grand than the Djenan El Mufti villa, but he is not in prison. The sources differ with regard to Ali Belhadj's new residence. While some stress that he has been moved to Tamzast [as transliterated], deep in the desert, others say that his new house-arrest residence is in the outskirts of the capital.

The well-informed circles believe that President Zeroual and the military leadership decided to separate Belhadj and Madani, and that this decision crystallized several months ago after realizing that the wager on disagreements between Madani and Belhadj had failed, and after the authorities ascertained that the FIS leaders' presence in the grand Djenan El Mufti villa would not prompt them to offer the concessions they had requested from them, first and foremost condemning violence and calling for a halt to armed action. As for moving Belhadj to the desert—if this is confirmed—it is to do with the frequent messages in which he attacks the authorities and which he sends to FIS leaders abroad, who, in turn, hand them to media services. [passage omitted]

Civil Servants, Mayor Assassinated

LD0902103595 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1000 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Four more people have been killed in Algeria, including an appointed mayor. The Islamists accuse these civil servants of usurping the posts of the elected mayors in the Islamist municipalities dissolved in 1992.

According to some reports, the two FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leaders who had been under house arrest since their release in Algiers have been split up. Abassi Madani is said to have been hospitalized, and Ali Belhadj transferred elsewhere.

Islamists Attack RCD Leader's Home Village in Kabylie

LD0802145495 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] In Algeria, there has been a spectacular attack on the village of Arhribs, Kabylie, the native village of Said Saadi, one of the country's main political leaders. Chantal Lorho reports:

[Lorho] An armed Islamist group arrived in the village of Arhribs, Kabylie, on Monday [6 February] in a van after people ended their fast, at a time when the cafe in the center was crowded with people. The assailants opened fire, compelling patrons to seek refuge inside. They threw a home-made bomb which exploded. One person was injured in the face by shells, while another two were injured when they jumped through a window. As the members of the group were withdrawing, they killed a young teacher outside the cafe and a headmaster who was trying to help one of the wounded.

As you said earlier on, Arhribs is the native village of Said Saadi, the leader of the RCD [Rally for Culture and Democracy], a party that violently opposes any compromise with the Islamists. Said Saadi had urged the villages of Kabylie to set up civilian militias to resist the attacks of the Islamists. Some villages are now defended by groups of armed villagers.

However, there have been repeated incidents for several months now. Two young people aged 23 were killed in Tizi Ouzou on Sunday and, according to the newspaper LE MATIN, citizens—quote, unquote—set ablaze the villa which belonged to the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leader, Abassi Madani in Tigzirt, Kabylie, last week.

[Announcer] Still according to the daily LE MATIN, Bachir Arabi, the emir—leader—of the armed group in the region of Lakhdaria, the former Palestro, which lies 70 km east of Algiers, was killed yesterday morning by the security forces near the town.

Human Rights Groups Invited to Special Courts

LD0802160695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The 51st UN human rights session is opening in Geneva today. Algeria is represented by Mohamed Salah Dembri, the minister of foreign affairs. Algeria has reiterated on numerous occasions its desire to respect human rights. It has even invited the human rights organizations to attend, among other things, trials by special courts.

Iraqi Envoy Delivers Message to Zeroual

JN0802171695 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algeirs, Feb 8 (INA)—President Lamine Zeroual of Algeria on Wednesday received a letter from President Saddam Husayn.

The letter, handed over by President Husayn's envoy, Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Ahmad Murtada Ahmad, tackles the latest developments of the relation between Iraq and the U.N. Security Council as well as bilateral relations.

Italy Agrees To Reschedule Debt

LD0802174195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1600 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Italy has decided to reschedule Algeria's debt. The bilateral agreement was signed in Rome on Monday by bank officials from the two countries.

The agreement, which is due to be signed in Algiers soon, is the latest in a series of agreements signed with the other 16 member countries of the Paris Club.

Elsewhere, negotiations on the rescheduling of Algeria's private debt will resume in London today with a number of commercial creditors led by Societe Generale. Abdelouahab Keramane, the governor of the Bank of Algeria, is expected in London today to head the Algerian delegation at these talks.

Egypt

Major Powers Urged To Pressure Israel To Sign Treaty

NC0902103695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0540 GMT 9 Feb 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Egypt's Efforts To Halt Nuclear Proliferation," the newspaper AL-AHRAM writes today that Egypt's current diplomatic efforts to compel Israel to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty can only be viewed as efforts designed to promote international peace and a real Middle East peace that will enhance the region's stability and keep it as far as possible from the specter of war, threats, and insinuations about the use of force.

The paper adds: These Egyptian efforts deserve backing by all peace-loving nations, particularly the members of the nuclear club. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has begun a five-nation tour including Japan and the United States. These last two countries should, more than any others, encourage Egyptian efforts to form a coalition that will exert pressure to bring about equal treatment of nations when it comes to signing the Treaty.

Talks Said Stumbling Because of Israeli 'Intransigence'

NC0902104795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0718 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—The newspapers AL- AKHBAR and AL-AHRAM assert today that the peace negotiations, particularly on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, are stumbling, primarily because of Israeli intransigence. They point out that this also harms the peace talks with the Palestinians.

In an editorial today, AL-AKHBAR declares that to achieve any breakthrough in the peace process and attain the objectives necessary for the desired peace, the vicious circle pursued by Israel since the negotiations began must be broken.

The paper notes that if the talks between Israel and the Arab countries, the territories of which are unjustly and unjustifiably under Israeli occupation, had been conducted on the basis of the land-for-peace principle, the process would have proceeded fairly well, all obstacles would have been eliminated, and the talks would not have taken so long.

The paper says that UN Security Council resolutions stress that all the occupied territories must be returned.

AL-AKHBAR also points out that the shuttle diplomacy carried out by U.S. secretaries of state during the Bush and Clinton eras has failed to nudge Israel off its intransigent course.

AL-AHRAM says that although Cairo's quadripartite summit created an optimistic atmosphere in the region, Israel has not halted its policy of heightening tension in the autonomy areas and the Palestinian territories that are still under the yoke of occupation.

The paper adds that the Israeli Government has not yet grasped the concept, substance, and requirements of the peace settlement nor has it comprehended the need to encourage the atmosphere of trust that can pave the way for regional peace.

It adds: What the Israeli Government cannot understand or does not wish to understand is that a peace settlement needs an atmosphere of calm, stability, and better social and economic conditions in the autonomy areas and the other Palestinian territories. Such an atmosphere is the logical prelude to any talk about the spirit of peace.

AL-AHRAM stresses that if the Israeli Government is serious about pressing ahead with the peace settlement until a comprehensive peace is reached, it must hasten to lift the siege around the Gaza Strip and halt the building of settlements and any other activities that hinder the peace march.

Crackdown on Muslim Brotherhood Said Tied to World Group

NC0902113695 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 3 Feb 95 p 14

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, AL-DIYAR—Cairo's State Security Court will resume interrogating 10 Muslim Brotherhood members tomorrow, Saturday [4 February], on charges including an attempt to revive the group's clandestine organizational structure and making contacts with what is described as the Muslim Brotherhood International Organization. These contacts are believed to have been made during meetings recently held in Switzerland.

In addition to the 10 members mentioned above, the Prosecutor's Office has renewed the remand of five others. The State Security Prosecutor's Office yesterday renewed detention orders for another 15 days against 12 Muslim Brotherhood members, including Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan, assistant secretary general and member of the group's Leadership Committee [title as published; al-'Aryan is assistant president of the Doctors Association]. So far 27 members of the Doctors Association have been detained.

The prosecution included 11 charges in its indictment of the suspects, including making plans to thwart the country's democratic and pluralistic experiment and trying to infiltrate the political parties.

The most serious charges against the suspects, however, include the authorities' discovery of "minutes of meetings held by the Muslim Brotherhood International Organization abroad." This is the crux of the problem. The Muslim brothers have been locally active for several years and control about 60 percent of the major professional associations (the lawyers, physicians, and pharmacists). They also fill important posts in the Journalists and Engineers Associations. Despite the government's concern about the Muslim Brotherhood's presence in the professional associations, it has allowed it to operate within these associations with hardly any harassment.

The question that arises here is: Why has the government suddenly turned against the Muslim Brotherhood? Why has it provoked a quarrel with the prominent unionist 'Isam al-'Aryan soon after provoking a similar quarrel with the journalist [Labor Party Secretary General] 'Adil Husayn?

Prominent Muslim Brotherhood figure Shaykh Mustafa Mashhur cannot find an explanation for the government's turnaround other than that the Muslim brothers are preparing for a fierce campaign during next autumn's People's Assembly elections. He says that the government does not want the Muslim Brothers to win a significant number of parliamentary seats. Shaykh Mashhur denies that something called "the Muslim Brotherhood International Organization" exists. He explains that "the communications between Muslim brothers in various countries are no more than cultural relations, as for example when they meet at symposiums and conferences. This does not signify that they have organizational links like the ones mentioned in the government's accusations."

A security source has responded to Mashhur's remarks by saying: "Shaykh Mashhur has the right to conceal political data related to the Muslim Brotherhood's movements, communications, and perhaps its finances but he does not have the right to hide obvious facts including that the Muslim Brotherhood International Organization was founded in Berlin in 1982. It has a guidance bureau of 14 members, including nine Egyptians, two Kuwaitis, one Saudi, one Nigerian national, and a Filipino. The international organization's Shura [consultative] Council has 64 members, including Shaykh Mustafa Mashhur himself. He is also a member of the organization's Call and Information Committee. How can he deny the organization's existence when he is one of its members?

The security source adds: It is certain that extremist Islamic groups have received large sums of money via Islamic companies in Brooklyn, New York, where dozens of Muslim Brotherhood members reside. It is the same organization that was responsible for assassinations in the 1940s. It suffered two major setbacks in 1954 [following an attempt to assassinate then President Jamal 'Abd-al- Nasir] and in 1965. The Youths of Muhammad, a splinter group that separated from the Muslim Brotherhood in the late 1940s, spread through the Gulf countries, particularly Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Because of its old rivalry with the mother organization and because of the current rivalry between the Muslim Brotherhood and the extremist groups, the Youths of Muhammad now represents the most important source of finance for the extremist groups. Kuwait is the Muslim brothers' largest base. After the Hasan al-Turabi-led Sudanese National Islamic Front [NIF] withdrew in 1986, Kuwait became the most effective country in the Muslim Brotherhood International Organization's Shura Council. The NIF withdrew in protest against the principle of the declaration of allegiance [al-bay'ah]. Al-Turabi preferred the principle of coordination to allegiance [al-Tansiq badalan min al-bay'ah].

Policeman Killed by Unidentified Gunmen

NC0802125195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Minya, 8 Feb (MENA)—A policeman was killed in Markaz Abu Qurqas, al-Minya, Upper Egypt, when unidentified persons attacked him and escaped this morning.

A responsible security source said the deceased's name is Walid 'Umar Muhammad 'Abdallah, 50, of the al-Minya police force. He was heading for work when unknown assailants attacked and shot him.

Al-Minya Security officials went to the scene of the incident and the prosecution has been notified to investigate.

Human Rights Report Criticizes Islamic Violence

NC0802214595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—A report by the Egyptian Human Rights Organization on the acts of violence in al-Minya Governorate criticizes for armed violence the groups that call themselves "the Islamic Group." The report notes radical changes in the methods of violence used by those groups as they moved from the stage of intentional killing of police officers and soldiers and attacks on security patrols to a stage in which the maximum of terror is generated for civilians without discrimination. The report, issued today, calls on those groups which are trying to impose their ideology by force to renounce this method, lay down their arms, and stop the bloodshed.

The report stresses it is of utmost importance to raise the competence of the security services, as they constitute the decisive factor in the success of the security effort against armed violence.

The report notes the need for civilian society and public and local leaders to join in the confrontation with this phenomenon, which threatens the existence of society and affects the entire campaign for human rights.

Rise in Islamic Violence Viewed

LD0802133595 London THE INDEPENDENT in English 8 Feb 95 p 15

[Report by Robert Fisk: "Terror Stalks Egypt's Forgotten Towns"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mallawi—Below the Ramadan lanterns, the gunmen walk. There is no other word for the plain-clothes cops of Mallawi, Kalashnikovs in their right hands leather jackets round their shoulders, bandanas wrapped round their heads to keep off the chill and spattering rain.

Central security forces, special security forces, political police, special investigation police; there seems no end to the teams of Interior Ministry squads drafted down from Cairo to crush the Islamic revolution in Mallawi.

We had seen some of them boarding the 7pm train. They were black-uniformed, helmeted, weighed down with old Soviet flak- jackets, carrying wooden boxes of ammunition into the carriages for the long ride south from the capital—unhappy men with tired faces.

Mothers call up ministries every day to plead that their sons should not be sent to Minya province. These were the unlucky ones, young, with hair close-cropped, throwing flowered mattresses and blankets into the carriages behind us. In just seven months last year, 18 members of the Egyptian security forces have been killed in Minya, almost all around Mallawi.

They say that hundreds of men from the "Gema'a Islamiya"—the Islamic Group—are hiding in the fields of sugar cane spreading down the Nile on both sides of Mallawi, although there is evidence that they walk into town when they choose. Take Meguidi Street, the busy road opposite the home of Colonel Ahmad Shindi, the police chief, with four years service in Minya province.

On Saturday morning, just outside Colonel Shindi's residence, three armed men brazenly attacked an Interior Ministry patrol protected by armoured vehicles. Using automatic weapons, they killed one police officer and wounded three others.

The cliche "tense" sums up Mallawi rather well. Walk across the dirt roads from the railway station, peer into the vegetable shops by the level crossing, and the eyes of policemen watch you. Some are in brown uniforms some in galibiya robes. In September, the Gema'a ambushed three policemen at this level crossing. All were shot dead.

To understand the damage done to the fabric of society in Mallawi, you have only to take a horse-and-carriage ride across town, in a covered trap pulled by a nag under a teenager's whip, and trot down a mud-splashed alley of screaming children.

There lies the office of Fathallah Khafaji, seller of agricultural machinery and local representative of the Egyptian Organisation of Human Rights. A photograph of Nasser, all grey hair and teeth, hangs on his wall.

Mr Khafaji has short grey hair and unblinking eyes and speaks with eloquence as well as courage, reminding visitors that, as a man who demands the right to life for all sides, he is regarded with suspicion by both policemen and Gema'a. Already it seems that citizens are required to take sides.

"The Gema'a can assassinate or liquidate anyone who helps the police—the Gema'a have liquidated no fewer than 40 people in Mallawi in the past four months," Mr Khafaji said. One of their most recent targets was a woman from the neighbouring village of Itqa who escaped but with a bullet wound that cut off a finger.

Others were not so lucky. A young girl called Basma Mahfuz Muhammad was shot down in a police officers' mess on 23 October. Muhammad Badr was shot while driving a government car on 5 November. Tal'at 'Abd-al-Rahim was killed six days later in a village street because he allegedly acted as a guide to the police.

Faraj 'Ali Marzuq was an attendant at the Zawiya mosque a building in which Gema'a members worship. He was murdered on 18 November as a police spy. Hosniya Sayed, a married woman, was shot on 24 November, accused of working as a police informer.

The list recalls another conflict, far to the west, where Algerian Islamists are exacting even bloodier revenge on the men and women who choose to support the government. This is not the only parallel. On 2 January, a group of Gema'a gunmen, looking like the plain-clothes police who throng Mallawi, stood on a main road in the town and stopped a minibus. A routine identity check, they told passengers.

The occupants obeyed, as they do in Algeria when confronted by a faux barrage, a fake checkpoint. Seven passengers were executed beside the road. Two were police recruits.

Mallawi has a history of resistance to the government; it is a destitute town of dust, car workshops and cane-trading which the government has ignored. The railway station is a disgrace, the streets, pot-holed, and the cafes, filthy. Uncooked meat slops off butchers' bicycles on to dung-covered roads. Lieutenant Khalid al- Islambuli, assassin of President Anwar Sadat, was from Mallawi. It is not a town that plays by the rules.

Until last summer, the Gema'a war was centred on the bigger city of Assiout. Then on 28 June, Mallawi police killed the local Gema'a leader, an accountant called Rajib 'Abd-al-Hakim—assassinated in cold blood, the

Gema'a claims. The Islamists announced in the town mosques that they would "undertake operations in retribution". Since then, about 145 people have died in Mallawi and its surrounding villages.

"There are three aspects to our crisis," Mr Khafaji said. "Of our country's budget, 49 per cent goes to Cairo but only 6.8 per cent to upper Egypt. Alexandria gets 13.6 per cent, double all Upper Egypt, which contains eight governorships. All the talk of government investments in Upper Egypt is propaganda. This is good soil for violence and extremism.

"Then, there is the political aspect. Our political parties in Egypt are unable to hold public meetings. Elections are rigged, so opposition people here can't participate in local councils. The state is an unreal democracy. We need different expressions of view on the streets so there will be political dynamism. The Gema'a should not be the only group to control street opinion. At the moment, the citizen here is only exposed to two points of view, the government and the religious groups."

Then, there is what Mr Khafaji calls the cultural problem. "At the moment, we have the 'desert' culture of the religious groups and what I call the 'petrol' culture of the West and its television programmes that the state shows us.

"But the desert culture is against enlightenment which refuses anything logical, which refuses the rationality of the mind. The 'petrol' culture is degenerate. So, Egypt is being pushed into one of these two directions, against its own cultural identity. To get out of this, we've got to have political parties on the streets with programmes of their own, we must stop the attacks on human rights and public freedoms."

Outside Mr Khafaji's office, an armoured vehicle passes, its siren wailing above the sound of a children's school and the muezzin of a mosque. Mallawi's cops are on the move again.

Minister al-Ghamrawi Discusses Military Industries

NC0902095495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Muhammad al- Ghamrawi, minister of state for war production, has stated that Egypt is not being pressured with regard to its military industries, which are a measure of its sovereignty and national security. He indicated that the Armed Forces depend on the War Production Ministry for most of their requirements.

In an interview published in the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH today, al-Ghamrawi said the war production plan primarily depends on the Armed Forces' plans and their need for weapons, ammunition, and equipment. It also considers the needs of some fraternal Arab and African countries.

Al-Ghamrawi referred to a report issued recently by a U.S. study center on Egyptian war industries. The report said Egypt is spending huge amounts of foreign currency on high technology military industries that are ineffective, of dubious quality, and depend on imported raw materials. The report added that the exports from these industries do not cover production costs. He said this report should be interpreted within the framework of the competition among international companies and the big powers' monopoly of arms technology. It is also part of an orchestrated campaign against Egypt.

Al-Ghamrawi said our production of high technology weapons is a point in our favor, not against us, since this is the only way for us to produce advanced weapons. He said a feasibility study is conducted on every project to manufacture military equipment for our Armed Forces to ensure that there are military, economic, technical, and security benefits from this project and that it is cheaper to produce this equipment locally instead of importing it.

Asked whether Egyptian war industries are being subjected to foreign pressure, al-Ghamrawi said Egypt rejects any pressure or talk by anyone on our war industries, because this subject touches on our sovereignty and national security. He indicated that the Egyptian war industries are facing no domestic or foreign pressure. He said talk of turning Egyptian war production into civilian production is rejected, out of the question, adding: No one has dared to discuss this subject with us. He said that what is happening now is that we are benefiting from the surplus capacity of the war production companies to get best use of them in light of the decreasing demand for military products, not only in Egypt, but in the whole world.

Regarding privatization, al-Ghamrawi said we have no factory producing only civilian products but we are exploiting the surplus capacity of war factories for civilian purposes. He indicated that our basic goal is military production, which is the property of the state and people. These factories cannot be sacrificed through privatization, because all these factories produce types of ammunition and military equipment that cannot be privatized.

Regarding criticism of the plan to produce the U.S. M 1 tank in Egypt—criticism based on local production costing much more than the cost of importing it and based on the United States putting pressure on Egypt to turn the factory to civilian production after the M 1 tank project is completed—he said that when the Armed Forces and the War Production Ministry set up Military Factory 200 for the production and repair of armored vehicles, their goal was not the production of the U.S. M1 tank. Thus the fate of the factory is not linked with the M1 tank contract.

He added that our Armed Forces cannot always depend on this type of tank. He indicated that when it was set up, the factory was subjected to economic and military criteria in light of the Armed Forces' need of a principal battle tank to replace the old Soviet T-24 and T-55 tanks. He indicated that there is an agreement and protocol regulating the manufacture of the M 1 tank and that this agreement is not linked with the factory or with civilian production.

Asked about concern some have expressed over U.S. monopoly of military production in Egypt, al-Ghamrawi said: We must not be afraid of this. Cooperation with the United States is good. At the same time we also have good relations with all states, which opens the road to joint military cooperation. He said he will visit China and Pakistan after the blessed 'Id al-Fitr to discuss military cooperation. He expressed Egypt's readiness to cooperate with every state that has joint interests and objectives with us.

Al-Ghamrawi noted that the Arab states can form an arms producing bloc that will have its weight in the world if we look at the issue from a security aspect first and an economic concept second. He referred to the experiment of the West European states in this regard. He expressed Egypt's readiness to cooperate with any Arab state in the field of military production. Egypt considers its military base and weapons the property of all the Arab states.

Arab-American Figure's Article on Asset Freezing Published

NC0902121295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—James Zoghbi, head of the Arab-American Institute in Washington, has written an article in AL-AHRAM WEEKLY. The article deals with the Arab and Muslim Americans' fears concerning U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision on 24 January banning financial dealings with terrorists who seek to stall the Middle East peace process.

In his article, Zoghbi notes that the decision has caused noticeable concern among Arab and Muslim Americans because its implementation could prompt dangers threatening civil and political rights in the United States.

Zoghbi said the decision could be interpreted loosely and inaccurately by American legal institutions, which might incriminate innocent people, a move that poses a genuine threat to legitimate political rights.

Zoghbi added that the Clinton administration has come under pressure from various parties to stem the flow of financial aid to terrorist activities in the Middle East, aid reportedly coming from the United States.

He noted that the World Trade Center explosion in New York gave Israel the opportunity to justify its campaign against Islamic opposition in the West Bank and Gaza Strip before the American mass media.

He said there is a point that must be clarified. The issue of the transfer of funds from one country to another should be dealt with separately from the assets freeze. No charges should be made accusing Arab Americans and Muslim American groups of involvement in financing terrorism.

Zoghbi emphasized that the danger in this U.S. decision is not the attempt to freeze the assets of these terrorist groups. Rather it lies in the U.S. executive agencies and intelligence authorities possibly deriving greater powers, more than necessary, which threatens citizens' civil liberties.

He noted that this executive order applies to Arab, Muslim, and Jewish groups but what is worrying for the Arab and Muslim Americans in the United States is that the language used in explaining and justifying the decision is directed only to the Arabs and Muslims.

Zoghbi concluded his article by saying that experience has shown that we can protect ourselves and rights guaranteed by the Constitution. He added that the Arab and Muslim American groups have joined forces to assert that, disregarding its essence, the decision will not serve as a license for executive agencies or some pro-Israeli groups to spy on or harass the Arab Americans to protect our rights as American citizens of Arab origin.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, al-Asad Concerned by U.S. Endeavors

LD0802210995 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A telephone conversation has taken place between the brother leader of the revolution and Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad.

During the conversation, the brother leader of the revolution and President Hafiz al-Asad expressed their grave concern over the quick steps fostered by America, which have created a dangerous crack in the economic and political map of the Arab world. It was also reaffirmed that such an endeavor is a very serious conspiracy against the Arab nation and pan-Arabism, and that the only winner will be the Israeli enemy.

The brother leader and President al-Asad furthermore reaffirmed that the so-called Islamic extremism in the Arab world must not justify the background for such a conspiracy.

Tripoli TV: Taba Meeting Held Under 'U.S. Tutelage'

LD0802232695 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A statement issued at the end of a meeting which brought together the ministers of economy and trade of Egypt, America, Jordan, the PLO, and the Israeli enemy at Taba stipulates setting up a Middle East bank. The final resolution also urges the need to increase economic cooperation between the parties to this meeting. [passage omitted]

The Secretariat of the General People Committee for Unity has issued the following statement:

A meeting was held at the Egyptian town [illegible] Taba between a number of Arab countries and the Israeli enemy under U.S. tutelage. The meeting was attended by a number of finance and economy ministers.

Such a meeting sets a serious precedent in incorporating the Israeli enemy in the Arab region within the framework of the so- called Middle Eastern market on the ruins of the Arab order.

The meeting was aimed at implementing the goals of the Economic Conference for Middle East and North African Countries, held in Casablanca last year, in order to tighten the Israeli-American grip on the Arab economic resources, and to force Western control over the Arab nation.

Such a meeting is one of the most seriously detrimental meetings toward the Arab nation. In practice is has annulled Arab resolutions and the Arab boycott of Israel, and allows the Israelis, through free trade, investment, and free transfer of capital, to control the region economically and politically, and to torpedo all Arab efforts to rally the Arab ranks and lay down the bases for a joint Arab action, in order to set up and breathe life into an Arab market and bring about Arab economic integration. It furthermore consecrates disunity instead of unity between Arabs, in order to allow the Israeli enemy to be the major force, leading the region.

The U.S. sponsorship of such a meeting is, furthermore, proof of the conspiracy which the United States is hatching in order to destroy the pan-Arab entity and to plunder its resources, as well as to encircle Syria and force its people to accept the American will.

The Taba meeting was a serious conspiracy. A conspiracy which was affirmed by the the final resolution, which urges opening wide the region's doors before the Israeli enemy, and to incorporate it as a leading force. This is in violation of all Arab charters and resolutions, as well as the Arab boycott recommendations.

The pan-Arab responsibility requires everyone to challenge the outcome of this dangerous meeting and to publicize its true aims, which would, once implemented, harm the fragile Arab unity, break up the Arab territorial integrity, and torpedo the pan-Arab tenets, given that fact that such a meeting coincided with the Israeli enemy's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and to show contempt for of all Arab resolutions, particularly the Damascus declaration, whose ink has not yet dried.

Unity Committee Views French Political Dogma Toward Algeria

LD0802215995 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Feb 95

[Statement by "a source at the General People's Committee for Unity"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The French political dogma is still the prisoner of its old but fashionable dream—the dream of building an empire by subjugating foreign countries. And, according to such a dogma, it still considers Algeria as an integral part of its empire. President Mitterrand has called upon European counties to hold a conference on Algeria's internal affairs.

While we are astonished at such a proposal and such a flagrant interference in the internal affairs of an independent and sovereign country, which has sacrificed more than 1 million martyrs for the sake of its liberation, we reaffirm our denunciation for and condemnation of such a cheek, contempt, and colonial mentality, which has been trying to undermine the sacrifices of the Algerian people and the Arab nation for their freedom and dignity, and which directly harms the independence and sovereignty of Algeria.

We hereby declare our support for Algeria's rejection of the French-European interference in its affairs, and for its eagerness to safeguard its dignity, sovereignty, and interests.

The West's interference and contempt for the people's will has deepened the popular anger toward the West. It has led the people to express its anger through violence against the West and against its allies. Hence, the West should be held responsible for the birth of violence in Third World countries. It is trying at the moment to use the violence to further its interest and aims, and to interfere in the internal affairs of independent countries.

JANA Editor Views Israel's Refusal To Sign NPT

LD0802143295 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign minister of the Israeli enemy has made statements in which he stressed that the Israelis will only sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] if all the Arab states recognize the Israeli enemy. He alleged that the feeling of danger or threat constitutes a justification for not committing themselves to that treaty.

JANA's Arab affairs editor commented on that saying: The strange logic put forward by the terrorist Peres from the UN headquarters stressed the insolent and blatant defiance of the world's will. It scorned international security and peace and exposed the international community to a dangerous disorder for flimsy if nonexistent reasons as, in accordance with that logic, any state that fears for its security or feels danger, or that has border problems with its neighbors, has the right to possess whatever nuclear and other mass-destruction weapons it likes.

The editor added: This is Libya which is threatened by America and was subjected to direct military aggression, and its peaceful towns were hit by American bombs in 1986, and it is possible that it will face aggression once more and at any time, and its vital interests are threatened by the danger imposed on it. Thus, is it not this country's right to feel danger before others? The same applies to the Arab confrontation states threatened by the Israeli enemy because it possesses a huge military arsenal and nuclear weapons and others.

This can also apply to Cuba, Canada, and Mexico which are neighboring countries to America and are near to it, giving them thus a justification for not signing the treaty. The feeling of danger or expecting it continues and prevails in all the world states so as to satisfy the Israeli enemy and so as to comply with its desire.

JANA's Arab affairs editor ended his commentary saying: We stress that the Israeli enemy's insistence on not signing the nuclear non- proliferation treaty is tantamount to its admission that it possesses nuclear and other mass-destruction weapons as well as long-range missiles with nuclear warheads that reach all Arab capitals. This constitutes a threat to the Arab nation and its present and future existence. Consequently, we will not sign the treaty unless we feel safe from the American and Israeli danger and have made certain that our waters, gulfs, and territories are safe, and have protected our rights, interests, and resources, and have guaranteed that aggression against us will not be repeated.

PLO's Qaddumi Visits, Meets Officials

LD0802163295 Tripoli JANA in English 1445 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, an Nawar [Feb] 8, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee held a meeting in Tripoli last night with Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the political circles in the PLO. He arrived in Tripoli yesterday on a visit to the Great Jamahariyah. He was received upon his arrival by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity and the general registrar at the General People's Committee for Unity.

Sudan

Iraqi Envoy Delivers Letter From Saddam Husayn

JN0802171495 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Feb 8 (INA)—Envoy of President Saddam Husayn to his Sudanese counterpart on Wednesday [8 February] left Khartoum at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Sudan.

The envoy, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Latif Nusayyif Jasim, handed over a letter from President Husayn to Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir on the developments of the relation between Iraq and the UN Security Council as well as on bilateral ties.

Mr. Jasim told INA correspondent in the Sudanese capital he was satisfied with the outcome of his visit. He said the Sudanese president has expressed solidarity with Iraq and its people, demanding an end to the embargo.

The envoy highly appreciated Sudan's inalienable stances in support of Iraq.

Bahrain

Heir Apparent Calls For Help on Bahrain-Qatar Accord

MM0902103095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Feb 95 p1

[Report by Hasan al-Laqis: "Bahraini Heir Apparent Tells AL-HAYAH: What Is Needed Is Help for Qatar and Bahrain To Reach Bilateral or Gulf Solution"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama—Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Defense Force, said yesterday that the Bahrain summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] "came in time with its decision that pending issues between GCC states should be resolved bilaterally and, if that proves impossible, through the Higher Council at its next summit meeting. We believe that we and the brothers in Qatar are very much a part of that decision."

Shaykh Hamad was answering a question from AL-HAYAH about Bahrain's position on the border dispute with Qatar, which has been referred by Qatar to the International Court of Justice, and whether there was a problem about arbitration.

Shaykh Hamad said: "It would be preferable if the International Court of Justice rules that the two fraternal states should reach a fraternal agreement without complications, with the issue returned to the Gulf framework in the interest of all parties. The international community should help both states reach a mutual agreement in the general interest, considering the love and blood ties between the two peoples."

He reaffirmed "Bahrain's commitment to the agreement to seek a just and comprehensive solution not only between the states of Bahrain and Qatar but also among all the Gulf states." [passage omitted]

He said that "doing away with the Saudi mediation would be neither wise nor appealing to the people of the region. There is no alternative to it other than mutual fraternal agreement, with the certain knowledge that a radical solution could only stem from what is accepted by brothers which is basically that, in the interest of the two fraternal peoples, there should be no victor and vanquished."

Saudi Arabia

Hajj Minister Holds Talks With Yemini Hajj Officials

LD0802201195 Riyadh SPA in English 1940 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, Feb 8, SPA—Hajj Minister Dr. Mahmud Bin-Muhamad al-Safar met here today with the Yemeni hajj delegation led by Undersecretary for Religious Endowments Shaykh Ahmad Mohammad al-Akwa' to review issues related to arrangements for the upcoming hajj season and bilateral coordination on services extended to Yemeni pilgrims.

The head of the Yemeni delegation stressed that the people of Yemen appreciate the services extended by the Kingdom to pilgrims during the hajj season.

CDLR Bulletin No. 30 on Saudi Events

MS0802150495 London CDLR MONITOR in English 13 Jan 95

[Bulletin No. 30 issued by the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, CDLR, on 13 January—received by fax 6 February]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right To Know—The End Of The Deference Era

King Fahd was painfully disappointed at the woefully poor attendance at the opening of the continent's football league—the people love their football, but they also love social justice.

Their massive absenteeism was a reminder to Fahd of the people's revulsion for the policies that have made their country a nation of beggars.

Al Sa'ud believed that by profligate spending on football, they could divert the attention of the citizens from the grave economic, social, and political problems facing the country.

Fahd celebrated the 1st anniversary of the Shura (Consultancy) Council and he unequivocally and unambiguously reaffirmed his compliance with Shari'ah (Islamic Law). He proudly proclaimed that Shari'ah was incomparable. But this cunning ploy is no longer working as evidenced by the massive snub to Fahd by the football and justice loving people. They are clearly fed up with the intolerable tax and tariff burdens and the oppression, cruelty and corruption of the regime.

Prince Nayif also appeared with his eight year old son, Nawwaf. The son became an official member of a delegation to Bahrain and Tunisia. News reports described the son as a deputy to the head of the delegation. The precocious eight year also officially chaired one of the assemblies, and when he returned to the country he was saluted by a special guard of honour.

Nayif is aware of the loathing and hatred of the people, and he knows full well that his son will not be welcome. Why do the Al Sa'ud insist on inhabiting a dream world of their own? Why do they persist in their indifference and contempt for the people even after the Nation has made no secret of its hatred of their illegitimate rule?

Al Sa'ud clearly live in a world of fantasy—the equivalent of "la grande illusion"—and are therefore unable to understand the reality on the ground. They have always been used to the unquestioning obedience and servility of the people and now continue to take this for granted even though the people have rejected this role of servility.

Would Al Sa'ud have been brave enough to run such a football league if they were accountable to the Nation? Would the King have lied in such a brazenly hypocritical manner to the Shura Council if there was a truly Islamic opposition? Would Nayif present his eight year old son for high office if he were not sure he was surrounded by toadies?

Obviously there are still people in the country who are prepared to put up with such criminality for a few crumbs from the master's table. Al Sa'ud know only their puerile achievements including the destruction of the economy and the declaration of their costly unwinnable war on reform and reformers in the country. They have won some minor inconsequential victories, one of them the seduction of a scholar who betrayed his faith and knowledge and corrupted the legitimate text to please Al Sa'ud and incriminate reformers. In the same perfidious and treacherous mould, a tribal sheikh sold his tribe and its dignity for a few riyals.

A highly decorated army officer reduced himself to the degrading level of deep South, shoe-shine boy to the Americans to keep his position. A man from a very distinguished family works as a spy against the people.

A University professor prostitutes his experience and talents in the service of the oppressors. Even more revolting in this ugly scenario of treachery and betrayal is another, who subverts his art and conscience to serve the cause of tyranny.

This is of course, an inevitable part of any struggle for justice. There are the traitors, the liars, the lickspittles, and the toadies but there are also men of honour and integrity—people utterly, selflessly and incorruptibly devoted to the noble cause.

To its credit the Nation responded with honour to the true call to drive out the infidel and restore the pristine purity of Islamic justice. The football boycott was but one example of the Nation's increasing impatience with usurpers, the frauds and the bankrupts who masquerade as leaders.

Al-Hasa: A Model of Security and Safety

The lack of security is not just in big cities such as Riyadh and Jeddah, but even in Al-Hasa. This quiet oasis, has become the "Los Angeles" of the Kingdom under the "blessed" leadership of Al Sa'ud. suspicious activity at a certain house, with many people moving too and fro. The house was raided by the security services who were astonished when the owner responded with several rounds from his machine gun. They were unable to return fire as they did not have the requisite permission. They staged a siege from midnight until mid-morning during which all the highly questionable visitors to the house escaped through a rear exit. Eventually permission to storm the house came and the man was arrested. Security men entered and found themselves "outside the Kingdom." The "house" was used as a discotheque with a large floor for exotic dancing—in other words a very sleazy night club. A huge supply of drugs and pornography was found, together with photographs of the patrons of the club in compromising positions. Photographic equipment for producing pornographic films was also discovered. Official police stamps were in the possession of the fraudsters. The man arrested was an extremely confident officer of the police force. When he was arrested he threatened the security men and told them he would be released within days and that they would pay for their actions. As soon as he was detained, an urgent fax arrived from Prince Nayif, ordering the release of the man with no conditions attached to his release. The Prince's order so surprised a very suspicious Prince of al-Hasa that he thought they had received the wrong message. However, Nayif contacted him personally by phone to confirm the fax and gave direct orders for the man's release.

Apparently this is not the first time Prince Nayif has personally intervened in such cases, to quash further action.

Gun law has become an accepted fact of life on the streets of al- Hasa.

In December, 1994, minor fracas between some young people outside the school developed into a gun fight. Later, in the same month a father and daughter were shot dead in another cross fire.

In two months there were 70 cases of theft in al-Hasa alone. A disturbing number of rape, abduction, homicide, forgery, drugs and prostitution cases were recorded as committed by persons unknown. It is believed that a large gang of influential people are behind these crimes. The people of the area are trying to get used to the lack of security and safety and are defending themselves and not depending on the State which unwilling or unable to protect them. The State is guilty of the criminal undermining of the rule of law as evidenced by the intervention of Nayif, the interior Minister, on behalf of a number of notorious criminals. Nayif is also involved in the protection of people in high places. We have brought such cases to the attention of the scholars to show how criminals are protected while reformers are jailed.

We put such cases forward to the Scholars to see how the real criminals are protected while the reformers are in prison.

News

Health Services Collapse

Health services are deteriorating rapidly. Buying medicine outside the hospitals at very high prices has become a norm in the Kingdom. Most of the main hospitals in the Kingdom are unable to complete all the various diagnoses. The practice of employing doctors and nurses without looking into their qualifications has resulted in deaths and disabilities that cry out for justice.

Many hospitals are handicapped by a lack of surgical equipment. Some hospitals even ask their patients to bring their own soap, towels etc. Even worse is the general deterioration of management qualifications which have led to horrific results. Innumerable cases of aids-infected blood transfusions have been reported.

In King Faysal's Hospital many contracts have been signed for millions of dollars with American Universities through companies owned by Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and his son Bandar allegedly to improve health services. In most cases, newly graduated doctors from America arrive and receive thousands dollars a day allowances. There are also satellite communication, which cost tens of millions per month. Such programmes provide golden opportunities for theft and embezzlement. The irony is that one of the respected American Universities refused contracts when they were asked to sign for amounts double the true value of the contract.

Reformers and Three Choices...

While the Nation is ashamed of King Fahd and his brothers, it is also proud of its legitimate and popular leaders of reform. The reformers unbending resistance to tyranny,

to corruption and to the betrayal of Saudi pride, self respect and dignity have inspired the proud people of our land.

There were many attempts to frighten the Shaykhs, to bribe them and pressurise them to water down the reform process. However, the shaykhs were uncompromising and presented the tyrants with a fait accompli:

—Unconditional release.
—Allow them to leave the country or
—remain in prison.

More Arrests...

We advise our Nation not to give way to such despair for tyranny only succeeds in the face of fear and low self esteem. We would also like to remind tyrants like Salman and Nayif who take sadistic pleasure in detaining reformers and preachers while at the same time intervening on behalf of notorious criminals that their days are numbered.

Shaykh Khalaf al-Ghamidi was arrested in Riyadh. Also in Riyadh, Shaykh Omar Al Ghayth was arrested. In Najran Shaykh Mamammed al Qasim was arrested and taken to Riyadh. He was previously banned from speaking in public and was sacked from his job, a fate that has befallen many others.

In Riyadh, Ali Ibn Suleiman Al Bin Hassan was seized and his sisters house, where he lived was raided and searched thoroughly. In Buraydah an army inspector, Ali Abdul Kareem Al Darweesh, and Shaykh Abdullah al Omar were arrested.

"Al Samer", Saudi Poet in Exile...

The Saudi poet, known as "Al Samer" declared a war of poetry against Al Sa'ud after he successfully fled the country. His patriotic poems are widely distributed inside the country by his supporters.

Farewell to Al-Haramain Institution...

Attacks on voluntary work still continue after the closure of many voluntary organisations. Fahd has now turned his beady attention to the Al-Haramain institution whose only concern was to provide aid and education to poor countries. It has also been established that the members of its management council have had no problems with the authorities. This shows clearly Al Sa'ud's real aim is to fight Islam itself and not just the political Islam as they themselves claim.

Bravery Medal...

Sabir Al-Ghumaysh, is a notorious name in the Al Qasim area for its "heroic" achievements against reform and reformers. Al Sa'ud rewarded this man for his torture of the people of Qasim by confiscating a large part of local land by force in the heart of Buraydah which belonged to some Buraydah families. Al Sa'ud "donated" this land to their obsequious, cringing and fawning servant, Saber al-Ghumaysh.

Finance Ministry...

The Govt. in yet another desperate scavenging attempt to redeem itself, decided on a wily scheme, by investigating the companies who have not paid Zakat to the state for the last ten years and forcing them to pay.

The Beating Instead of a Salary...

The cleaners at King Khalid Airport went on strike because they had not received their salaries. The workers were forced to return to work and those who defied the edict were badly beaten.

Ha'il Protests...

Large numbers of farmers and citizens protested in Ha'il against the hefty new increases in prices and tariffs. They sent telegrams of protest to the authorities.

Dammam and the Govt. Priorities...

The work on the Dammam Stadium is about to be completed. It is expected to be handed over to the Ministry of Youth in the near future. At the same time, the work was stopped on in Al-Khalij Hospital because of a lack of funds.

If You Don't Like it, Leave !!!

One of the companies decided to send its workers back to their native countries after they had failed to pay their salaries. Two coaches of Egyptian workers left Tabuk for Egypt because of the wage problem.

Complaint From The People of The North...

We report another campaign of terror by the security forces, who carry out random acts of terrorism late at night in some cities and villages of the North. These forces have camped on the motorway and continued their assaults after midnight with no previous warnings. Recently, the security force squad launched an assault on Mayor's house, Shaykh Dubayyan Al-Shammari a decent and much revered citizen. Nine security personnel jumped over the gate of the house while the Shaykh was sitting in his lounge with his four sons and their wives and children. They searched the house and seized the mayor for 20 days.

In al-Habas village a similar incident took place simultaneously. Several people narrowly missed being killed in a clash.

In al Sadim village the man of the house was severely injured. Others assaulted were Falah Marbud al-Shammari, Shu'ayb Marbud Al- Shammai, Salih Al Shammari, Mubarak Mutlaq Al Shammari, Mamdouh Nawwaf al-Shuraym, Falaah Nawwaf Al Shuraim and Ali Gannas Al Shammari.

CDLR Bulletin No. 31 on Saudi Events

MS0902101395 London CDLR MONITOR in English 20 Jan 95

[Bulletin No. 31 issued by the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, CDLR, on 20 January—received by fax 6 Febuary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right to Know—What after Al- Sa'ud?

The question that has become an obsession with the preachers of reform is: Is it our duty to change or to reform? In other words, is it our duty to put right the blunders of the regime and keep it in place. Is it equally our duty to overthrow the rotten order and introduce fundamental changes?

The problem of the present regime besides its legitimacy, lies in its ability to sustain itself. Those who preach for reform should end their debates on the legitimacy of an out-going regime and face reality.

Those among the reformers who support the legitimacy of an out- going regime support chaos, because they prevent the nation from making the necessary preparations to fill the power vacuum caused by the inevitable collapse of the old regime.

The regime has committed suicide on all fronts: economic, political and social. The Al-Sa'ud are incapable of recognising this fact, let alone do anything about it. What gives greater cause for concer is the tidal wave of public defiance and resistance which will deal the final, fatal blow to al-Sa'ud's legitimacy. Their only justification, and a highly questionable one at that is of their inheritance given their violent imposition on the people. The situation is worsening everyday as the regime begins to resemble a putefyring corpse. Ignorance, illogicality, illegality, a lack of planning and a tunnel vision are the order of the day. For example the regime still cannot come to terms with the fact that the Nation is educated and knowledgeable about its political, economic, social, and constitutional rights. The obstinate rulers also fail to recognise their political and economic blunders. They also seriously under-estimate the effectiveness of the resistance led by the reformers and truthful scholars and myopically ignore the advice of reasonable people. The regime clings to the illusion in the age of highly sophisticated technology and satellite communications and access to news which make a mockery of the al-Sa'ud censorship. All they do is pour billions of dollars down the Western propaganda drain to buy a favourable international and even a national image.

Al-Sa'ud import all the specialists in torture and at the same time they continue their embezzlement to keep a tight grip on the wealth of the country. How can such a regime continue when King Fahd appoints his son as a consultant, and misappropriate tens of billions from the treasury in these parlous times or when Sultan attempts to provoke a war with Yemen just because he hates President Abdullah 'Ali Salih? How can they hope to survive when Nayif the cuckold becomes a slave to the his avaricious, arrogant and cruel wife, Nayif Maha al-Sudayri or when Salman enters into contract and agreement with Israel etc.? As they sense that the end is near, there is bitter conflict with factions plotting and scheming against each other. Discord in the House of al-Sa'ud is rife and even the fragile unity has now fragmented. Our duty now is to prepare expertly to fill the power vacuum after the collapse and destruction of the Shah—style departure of al-Sa'ud. While there is no doubt about the revolutionary zeal of the people, there are disturbing question marks over their confidence to rule themselves.

After decades of subjugation, humiliation, brain washing and exclusion, it is to be expected that on the eve of victory they should be filled with apprehension. Even the most evil regimes which have been in power for unconscionably long time are held in awe by the people they so brutally oppressed. But even more disappointing are many of the highly educated people whose retort to change is: "But what is the alternative?"

Al-Sa'ud in the 50 years of misrule have managed to destroy the confidence both of the people and of the intellectuals and academics. Al-Sa'ud prevented any form of grouping either within families or generally. A wily part of this tactic was weakening the rest of the Nation. The Nation must throw off its mental yoke and prepare itself for the coming vacuum which will be preceded by war and chaos, as the rival al-Sa'ud factions tear into each other in the final but fatal struggle for supremacy.

History records that the destruction of the Second Saudi State was brought about by the violent and bloody feuds which plunged the Nation into disaster. We should at this very moment be grooming alternative leaders of credibility, patriotism, incorruptibility, administrative skills, and political and economic wisdom.

The Detainees Case...

Al-Sa'ud are now under intense pressure to bring the issue of the detainees to a conclusion. There seems to be no end in sight to the heated debates among the four brothers over the detainees. The King feels that he, in particular, will be held responsible for any decision taken by al-Sa'ud. It will fall squarely on his shoulders, as he is the figurehead and takes responsibility for their actions in the eyes of the Nation and the whole world. Despite the absence of a constitution, he is in the same position as an Executive President or a political monarch. He is the embodiment of the state and will be seen as such by the Nation and the whole world. Recently, the King insisted that his brothers find a solution to this dilemma.

The King is trying to release the prisoners, and at the same time rescue his pride by obtaining some statement or declaration from the reformers that their activities will end if they are released, or words to that effect. However, the reformers are refusing any deals with such compromising conditions. This may lead the King to secure a verbal guarantee from Shaykh Ibn-Baz.

The King's brothers, especially Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, vehemently and obdurately oppose the above option—the Fahd option. Salman would prefer to put the reformers on trial for allegedly causing public disorder. Such a course of action with the so called offenders punished by harsh jail sentences will meet with little resistance from a pliant judiciary.

There are any number of time servers at all levels of the judiciary cravenly eager to oblige their paymasters. The problem, however, is the public reaction to such an act and the repercussions both domestically and internationally. Therefore, the decision is not a judicial one but a political one.

If the King was in a fit state physically and mentally, it may be possible to predict his decision. However, the King is not a fit man, he is barely coherent, and could hardly be described as a man with a lucid mind. He has a very tenuous grasp of events and most of the decisions are made by others. The fate of the detainees is uncertain. The Nation must be prepared for the worst. The vindictive, vicious, venomous and vacuous Salman is likely to have his way. May God protect us from his sick batred.

The Yemeni Borders...

Al-Sa'ud have not learnt their lesson from Sultan's scandals in the Gulf War, nor his scandal in the Yemeni War. He is still the Defence Minister with unquestionable authority. Salman is trivialising the alleged dispute with the Yemenis in an irresponsibly subjective manner. He lacks the education and the intelligence for understanding the complex nature of relations between countries. In the last Yemeni war 4 billion dollars were squandered and the reputation of the Kingdom was seriously dented. Sultan's case rests on the personal hatred he feels for President 'Abdullah 'Ali Salih.

Some analysts believe that the Govt. was using the Yemeni question as a red herring to divert the public's attention from its economic, social and security problems and the political chaos in the country. However, it was later revealed that the architect of the sinister and provocative sabre-rattling was Sultan. It is believed that the King was kept in the dark.

A communication between Sultan and the prime minister of Yemen, full of invective and insult left the "The lion king", Sultan, even more demented in his hatred of the Yemeni President. It was Sultan who imperiously gave increasing orders to deploy armed forces along the border in the Kharkhir area. This stupidity was the perfect excuse for the intervention of the "real" bosses, that is America. The situation is still tense and the Americans are concerned that this might deteriorate into an all-out war.

Rising Prices Public Anger...

The rise in prices of fuel services etc. caused a wave of public anger against al-Sa'ud. The King received a huge number of telegrams of protest. Delegations representing the public met the princes of the different areas and their officials, in order to express their anger and opposition. Many farmers decided to stop work as a mark of protest. One of the most potent elements in the public display of dissatisfaction was the delegation of the al- Dawasir Tribe to the Chairman of the Consultancy Council, Ibn Jubayr. Al-Dawasir are well known for their strength and bravery. They told al-Jubayr that he shared responsibility with the Government for the imposition of the unacceptable levels of taxation. They left al-Jubayr in no doubt about their hostility.

The King learned of these developments and fears the increase in such delegations. He is alarmed, too, by intelligence reports on the depth of public dissatisfaction and anger.

The King uncharacteristically respectful of the strength of public pressure may decide to relax some measures especially with regard to fuel prices. This may come to the nation as a royal "gift" from their loving King. No amount of such gifts should detract from the mess we are in, due to the criminal misappropriation of the Nation's wealth by the notorious al-Sa'ud family.

The Public Boycotts the Continents League

The people who accused our Nation in the peninsula of being apathetic and careless must look again, after the continent's football league experience.

Reports on the Opening ceremony of the league indicate the awakening of the people and their readiness to support reform and oppose tyranny.

On the opening day itself, only a few hundred tickets were sold for an event which usually draws thousands. The league authorities regarded this as a scandalous treatment of the Custodian.

Salman reacted immediately by ordering the security forces' college recruits to attend in civilian clothing in the King's stadium. A few thousand were lined up facing the Custodian in a desperate attempt to please him, but absence of support was obvious and the King was visibly disturbed. He should learn from this experience just how much the public reject him.

The Committee congratulates young Muslims on their political consciousness and courage. Al-Sa'ud can no longer ignore their contempt.

Maha al-Sudayri; Al-Sau'ds Problem...

This week an assassination attempt was made against Maha al- Sudayri. She survived with injuries and was taken to hospital. Two members of al-Sa'ud shot her and there are conflicting accounts of the reasons for the attempt on her life. The details regarding the event differ. One source said that the family revenge was responsible. Another said that Maha al-Sudayri's scandalous behaviour had provoked the attempted assassination.

After this incident a feud developed between Salman and Nayif, as Nayif wants to speed up the punishment of the accused, Salman counsels patience since those responsible are members of the family. There was sinister difference between Salman and Nayif in the previous case of Khalid security personnel injuring two of them while in the company of Maha al-Sudayri. Nayif wants to include Khalid 'Abd-al-Rahman in the royal pardon of Ramadan this year, but Salman wants him to remain in prison. Nevertheless, Khalid Abd-al-Rahman leaves prison for a day or two each week on Nayifs orders.

In the last few days Nayif was conspicuous by his absence at official meetings. It is believed that he is now mostly at Maha al- Sudayri's side at the hospital.

Urgent Royal Gift...

The anti-drug squad arrested one of the big drug dealers in Qasim recently. Five days after his arrest he was released on the personal order of the Custodian. The drug dealer in question was a relation of Salih al-Athil the consultant of the Custodian. After 5 months preparation for the arrest of this dealer, the anti-drug squad was bitterly disappointed by the man's release.

Shaykh Ibn-Baz and the Government

Shaykh Ibn-Baz spoke on many occasions of his deep dissatisfaction at the way al-Sa'ud have "played" with him and told him a farrago of lies. Some trusted sources informed us of the Shaykh's deep disappointment over the issue of the detainees and the peace-fatwa with the Jews. The Shaykh was trying to explain his legitimate stand on these issues.

We would like to tell the Shaykh that if he does not take a clear stand against a regime which declares war on Islam and on preachers and reformers, and if he does not seek advice from trustworthy Scholars, he will remain a tool in the hands of al-Sa'ud and party to their oppression and tyranny.

Land obsession...

One of the citizens donated an extension to Television Mountain Mosque in al-Shurba Estate in al-Ta'if. As soon as the work started the representative of Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz ordered the cessation of further work and told the donor that the land he was building on, which is 24 million square metres, is the Prince's property and that he must cease any further building work.

Sultan Bin-'Abd-al'Aziz signed a grant order for one of the daughters of Mish'al Bin 'Abd-al'Aziz for a portion of land in Jeddah of one million square metres. The price is more than 2 thousand million Riyals.

Prince Faysal Bin-Turki Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz confiscated a garden in Al-Tayeff. The public complained against his action but to no avail.

Mish'al Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz confiscated al-Shitnat and al-Sahul areas, north of Buraydah and his aides drove all the residents out by force. The area is now under police guard.

Al-Sa'ud a Blank Face...

The Government has passed the stage of being ashamed of reduced spending on services, especially health. A few days ago, a Riyadh newspaper published news of a person who donated 500 blankets to Sakska Hospital. The donation was a response to the newspaper's appeal for help.

We believe that permitting the newspaper to publish this news in such a manner indicates an important turning point. It is an acknowledgement that the state no longer cares about the state of the health service or the fact that it is now necessary to beg for basic equipment, whilst at the same time al-Sa'ud continue to embezzle the nation's wealth.

Yemen

Al-Ahmar: Saudi-Yemeni Talks Near 'Successful Conclusion'

MM0902104495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Feb 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hasin al-Bunyan: "Shaykh al-Ahmar Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Saudi-Yemeni Memorandum of Understanding To Define Foundations for Settling Disputes and Normalizing Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh—Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, chief of the Hashid tribe, and head of the Yemeni delegation to the negotiations with Saudi Arabia, has stressed that the negotiations are approaching a "successful conclusion." He did not rule out that they could be concluded at the beginning of next week. They had been expected to conclude today.

When the political negotiators emerged after four hours of talks in the ninth round the day before yesterday, which concluded at 0245 hours, they had not completed some political aspects concerning normalization. The two negotiating teams held the 10th round yesterday evening, and the concluding session is expected to be held at the beginning of next week.

Shaykh al-Ahmar said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that numerous strong indications confirm that advanced and tangible steps have been achieved in these negotiations. He added: I personally am very optimistic that success will be achieved and that everything will be agreed upon.

Al-Ahmar said that the joint memorandum of understanding, which is now the pivot of the discussions, will include principles and frameworks for settling border disputes, normalizing relations, and making arrangements to guarantee success for the awaited summit between Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Al-Ahmar expected the negotiations to conclude at the beginning of next week. He pointed out that the length of the negotiations is a factor for the success of the dialogue and the discussions, "in order to settle and agree on everything."

He said: "We are awaiting an agreement, and a statement is bound to be issued on the results of the negotiations."

Shaykh al-Ahmar stressed that the Saudi-Yemeni negotiations include dialogue and agreement on everything, whether settling border disputes or normalizing relations between the two countries and the two peoples. He stressed that any problems and issues between brothers can be resolved there.

He pointed out that setting a date for President Salih's visit to Riyadh does not fall within the two negotiating teams' powers, stressing that the date and venue for the visit are to be decided through consultation between the political leaderships.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's sources stress that the negotiations have completed drafting the principles and legal procedures concerning demarcating the border line between the two countries. The 10th round of talks continued yesterday. The sources said that this round dealt with political issues concerning normalization and restoring relations between the two countries to their normal status.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's sources said that the course of the negotiations inspires much optimism about success and an agreement.

Iraqi Envoy Concludes Visit, Departs

JN0802171095 Baghdad INA in English 1227 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, Feb 8 (INA)—Envoy of President Saddam Husayn to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on Tuesday left Sanaa, winding up a two-day visit to Yemen.

Dr. Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq told reporters at Sanaa airport that he handed over to the Yemeni president a letter from President Husayn on Iraq's implementation of its obligations towards Security Council resolutions and on what the council should do in return to lift the embargo imposed on Iraq.

The minister said president Salih has expressed full support for the people of Iraq and their struggle against the embargo.

New Inter-Kurdish Fighting, Casualties Reported

NC0802185995 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Persisting in their crime against the sons of our Kurdish people with the aim of undermining stability and peace in the cities of the Kurdistan region, the defeated and capitulated leadership of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] ordered its gunmen to launch an offensive against the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's [PUK] valiant forces in the Rawandoz area, ignoring the sanctity of the holy month of Ramadan.

The attack began exactly at 0530 yesterday on the (Andrin), (Bikhal), (Quriq), and (Kawlukal) frontlines. The attacking forces of the KDP mercenaries barbaricly and savagely bombarded the Rawandoz area. The PUK forces and the inhabitants of the Qasabat Rawandoz confronted the KDP mercenaries and forced them to retreat, leaving behind seven dead mercenaries, a large quantity of weapons, and various military equipment.

PUK Political Bureau member Dr. Fu'ad Ma'sum has denied reports that yesterday's battles between the PUK and the KDP forces in the Rawandoz area spread to other areas in Kurdistan. This denial came in a statement he made to the MBC television network.

Dozens were killed and wounded, the majority of them civilians, in the KDP mercenaries' barbaric bombardment of the Qasabat Rawandoz. The bombardment destroyed 240 houses with hundreds of artillery shells and rockets. It also burned the (Bashay Gurah) school and hit the al-Jumhuriy Hospital with several artillery shells.

Talabani Hails 'Victory' Over KDP's 'Mercenaries'

NC0802203795 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Feb 95

["Text" of cable from PUK leader Jalal Talabani to the party's forces in the Rawandoz area; date not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] O Peshmerga heroes of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] in the Rawandoz area.

With a warm revolutionary greeting, I bless your great victory in defending yourselves and your city.

The mercenaries of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], who are deceived by the lies of their leadership what is hostile to the Kurds and Kurdistan, are making themselves fodder for the hopeless battle of Umm al-Jamarik. During this battle the KDP's leaders of capitulation stole hundreds of millions of dinars and tens of millions of dollars from the people's livelihood and transferred them to international banks to be deposited in their private accounts. This leadership, which is hostile to Kurds and Kurdistan, has ignored even the sanctity of the holy month of blessed Ramadan and reignited its dirty war at a time when the PUK demanded a complete halt to the fighting during this blessed month.

Valiant Peshmergas in the Rawandoz: You, your heroic commander, and all the other valiant men on your front have become an example for the steadfast Peshmergas defending their homeland. The repulse of the attacking KDP mercenaries is the best way to extinguish the fire of sedition and fighting.

O defenders of the heroic city of Rawandoz, you have become an example for the heroes loyal to the Kurds and Kurdistan. You have recorded another page of glory and pride with the blood of your martyrs and wounded and added it to the history of your city and its area. You have played a prominent role in enlightening the Peshmergas in Kurdistan about the false claims of the KDP's capitulationist leaders and in making the Peshmergas always ready to repel the KDP attacks.

Your brothers and comrades have also written with their noble blood the slogan: Continue the Fight Until Victory.

March forward to repel the dirty war of the Umm al-Jamarik, consolidate peace and democracy in Kurdistan, and defend the region's parliament and government, that is, entomb the plot to steal Kurdistan's wealth and to [word indistinct] our people's parliament and government which the KDP's capitulationist leaders have undertaken to carry out on behalf of the Kurdish people's enemies.

May you live long for the sake of struggle. May your victories continue.

KDP Forces Capture Badinan From PUK

LD0802160395 Tehran IRNA in English 1526 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kermanshah, Feb. 8, IRNA—Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) has captured Badinan city, driving out forces of the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), al- Sulaymaniyah television reported Tuesday night. The report, quoting the PUK leader, said that civilians had sustained losses in the clashes between the two rival Kurdish groups.

The two rival Kurdish groups have been engaged in bloody clashes since the western powers prohibited Iraqi President Saddam Husayn from interfering in the affairs of northern Iraq. After withdrawl of Iraqi forces from northern Iraq, a self declared government was formed by PUK and DPK and since then both groups have been engaged in power struggle.

Air Transport 'Cooperation' Accord Signed With Qatar

JN0802135895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 2 Feb (INA)—Iraq and the State of Qatar have signed a cooperation agreement in the field of air transportation.

The director general of the Civil Aviation told INA upon his return from Doha that the agreement stipulates appointing Qatari Airlines as an official carrier to the State of Qatar, besides Gulf Air. Under the agreement, Iraq may also name a second carrier. In addition, the agreement states that flights between Baghdad and Doha will be increased to three weekly flights after lifting the unfair blockade imposed on Iraq.

The director general added that he had met with Qatari officials, who stressed the need to end the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the continuation of the unfair blockade. These officials also said that Iraqi Airways should be allowed to resume its flights and operations.

Assembly Speaker Receives Bulgarian Party Delegation

JN0702164395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today received a delegation from the Bulgarian Socialist Party headed by Kiril Zhelev, member of the Bulgarian National Assembly and member of the Executive Bureau of the Bulgarian Socialist Party.

During the meeting, the National Assembly speaker reviewed the negative impact of the continued unfair sanctions clamped on Iraq by the United States, as well as their serious implications for the life of the Iraqi people, given the acute shortages in food, medicine, and other survival requirements they have created.

Salih spoke to his guest at length on the democratic practices of the Iraqi National Assembly and its role in enacting laws; approving the state budget and international treaties and agreements; overseeing the work of the government; providing counsel; and submitting constructive proposals to the Presidential Office.

For his part, Kiril Zhelev asserted Bulgaria's desire to expand its ties with Iraq in the interest of the two countries.

'Terror Group' Claims Bomb Aboard Ship To Explode

TA0902053195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Feb 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Palestinian terror group claims that a cargo ship which left Texas last week for Israel contains a sophisticated magnetic bomb which will explode in two days in the middle of the Atlantic.

In a call to THE JERUSALEM POST last night, a man identifying himself as a member of "The Basics of the Islam" said the bomb is aboard the ship Liberty Wave out of Galveston. He said advance notice was being given so people could be evacuated and there would be no injuries.

The US-flag ship left the port a week ago Wednesday, according to the Galveston Port Authority. The ship is owned by the Liberty Maritime Corporation, based in Lake Success, New York.

The group, which the caller said "operates only in Palestine," has never been heard of before.

Shin Bet Uncovers 'Terror' Ring

TA0902101195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Shin Bet managed to capture the person who trained Yahya 'Ayyash, alias The Engineer, and taught him how to prepare homemade explosives. The detainee is 52-year-old Sabri (Mukdi), a resident of Samaria, who is suspected of having taught 'Ayyash how to prepare chemical compounds. Together, the two men manufactured over 15 kg of explosives, which were used in the recent fatal terror attacks. Our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz reports the full details of the affair for the first time:

[Yokhpaz] For over two years, the Shin Bet has been conducting a relentless manhunt for the No. 1 wanted man in the territories: Yahya 'Ayyash, alias The Engineer. The 29-year-old 'Ayyash, a resident of Ra'fat, is the brains behind the suicide bombings in Tel Aviv, 'Afula, and Hadera. The defense establishment knows very well that every day that 'Ayyash remains on the lam poses a serious security threat.

IDF Radio has learned that, about three months ago, the Shin Bet managed to lay its hands on one of 'Ayyash's top practical teachers. He is 52-year-old Sabri (Mukdi), a resident of Samaria and a seemingly innocent Palestinian muezzin. (Mukdi) knew 'Ayyash well, and it was only four months ago that the two lost contact. 'Ayyash frequently slept over at his house. (Mukdi) provided him with ample professional training, particularly in the manufacture of explosives and sabotage materiel.

In one of their meetings about a year ago, (Mukdi) taught 'Ayyash an innovative method to manufacture bombs from an explosive called ('Umm-al-'Abd). (Mukdi) explained to 'Ayyash that the lethal compound should consist of acetone, hydrogen peroxide, and nitric acid. 'Ayyash bought the chemicals from a local pharmacy, and together with (Mukdi), concocted some 15 kg of explosives. He made two bombs, filling two 20-cm pipes with explosives, and took them with him.

(Mukdi) later worked with 'Ayyash on another sabotage method, using organic manure. The two concocted an explosive made of ashes and (?frangible) manure, which is used as a fertilizer. A few months ago, the two men manufactured homemade hand grenades, believed to be more potent than the fragmentation grenades used by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

Sabri (Mukdi) was arrested after the security forces arrested his son (Mu'atasim). Among other things, (Mu'atasim) is suspected of having helped the suicide terrorist who perpetrated the attack on the No. 5 bus in Tel Aviv.

The defense establishment has uncovered a complex terror network made up of father, a seemingly innocent muezzin but an expert in chemical sabotage; son, an active Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorist; and Yahya 'Ayyash, the demolition engineer who continues to elude the security forces in the territories.

Rabin Planning Personnel Changes in Mosad, Shin Bet

TA0902133895 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 9 Feb 95 pp 1, 8

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is interested in implementing personnel changes in the Mosad's top echelons over the coming year, more or less in conjunction with parallel changes in the Shin Bet. The present Shin Bet head is scheduled to retire on 1 March 1995 after seven years at the post. Meanwhile, the only candidate for his replacement is K., currently the acting head of the Shin Bet.

It should be noted that Rabin has not yet announced his decision, although the head of the Shin Bet is slated to be replaced in just a little over two weeks.

Security sources pointed out that Yitzhaq Rabin believes that the head of the Mosad should be required to step down after a fixed period, just like the head of the Shin Bet, whose tenure is limited to a maximum of seven years, and the chief of staff, whose tenure is limited to three years with an option of another year at the post. The current head of the Mosad has held the job for approximately five and a half years.

Two possible candidates for the position of the head of Mosad have been mentioned so far. According to THE FOREIGN REPORT, one of the candidates is Major General Dani Yatom, the prime minister's military secretary, while the other candidate is Major General Uri Sagi, the head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch.

Knowledgeable sources reported that Maj. Gen. Yatom's close relations with the prime minister give him a slight advantage over Sagi. The sources also recalled that the prime minister seeks to appoint a candidate who enjoys his total confidence, especially with regard to maintaining total discretion.

On this issue, it is worth noting that Rabin has voiced his displeasure in the past over a newspaper interview with Maj. Gen. Sagi, in which the general enumerated certain points that had come up in the negotiations with Syria. This came at a time when Rabin felt that conditions were still not ripe for a public debate. The prime minister is expected to reach a decision on the matter in the near future.

Rabin: 98% Pullback Not Withdrawal 'From' Golan

TA0902101795 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Feb 95 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev, Shefi Gabay and Yo'av Limor]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin asserted that he does not consider a pullback from even "98 percent" of the territory of the Golan Heights to be "a withdrawal from the Golan." Therefore, this would not constitute a violation of his pledge on the issue on the eve of the elections.

Rabin made these remarks in a meeting held by the Labor Knesset faction to discuss Avigdor Qahalani's bill for the fortification of the status of the Golan Heights. His remarks were not made public, but political sources in Jerusalem pointed out that this was Rabin's most radical pronouncement on the scope of a possible withdrawal from the Golan.

Replying to a Knesset member who queried him about his pledge on the eve of the elections not to withdraw from the Golan, Rabin said: "For me, a pullback from 98 percent of the Golan does not constitute a withdrawal from the Golan." Qahalani persisted: "Do you mean to say that if we remain only in Kefar Haruv, this would not constitute a withdrawal from the Golan?" Rabin answered: "That is correct, and it is exactly this point that my argument with you is all about."

Rabin's remarks came against the backdrop of the imminent resumption of the "ambassadors' talks" in Washington. Syrian Ambassador Walid al-Mu'allim returned to the U.S. capital earlier this week. Yesterday he met with the State Department's top officials to discuss the continuation of the negotiations and the recent tension in U.S.-Syrian relations.

Political sources in Jerusalem said last night that a meeting between al-Mu'allim and Israeli Amb. Itamar Rabinovich is expected to take place next week. The two men may decide on a date for the resumption of the talks between army officers of the two countries. [passage omitted]

Peres Asks Christopher To Resume Shuttle Mission

TA0802193895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Washington this evening, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher discussed the meeting of the peace coalition foreign ministers of Egypt, Jordan, Israel and a Palestinian representative, scheduled to take place next week.

Answering our correspondent Arye Golan, Secretary Christopher said that he does not plan to come to our region any time soon. Foreign Minister Peres asked Christopher to resume his shuttle mission to speed up the peace process. He stressed that Israel will not be deterred and will continue the peace negotiations despite the difficulties.

Minister Peres said that the main threat to peace comes from the Muslim fundamentalists. He is convinced that the Palestinians have started taking resolute steps against the organizations that oppose the agreement with Israel. Regarding the foreign ministers' meeting, Peres said that it is not aimed at Syria and that it would deal with the issues of economy and the war against terrorism.

Rabin: No Objection To Direct Election of Autonomy Chairman

TA0902134995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today informed the PLO that Israel no longer objects to the election of the autonomy chairman in direct elections that correspond to the method of electing the Israeli prime minister. This is reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. This issue was raised yesterday during the Israeli-Palestinian talks on the elections format in the territories. Prime Minister Rabin's decision to approve the Palestinian request was based, among other things, on the argument that the Israeli prime minister will also be elected in direct elections.

Our correspondent was told that Sa'ib 'Urayqat, who heads the Palestinians' elections committee, received this decision with satisfaction.

Peres: No Hamas in Elections; Impasse Syria's Fault

TA0902102395 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Feb 95 p 1

[Report by Moti Bassok, Dan Avidan, and news agencies]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said in Washington yesterday that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] should not be permitted to participate in elections in the territories "because it seeks to eliminate the State of Israel and destroy the peace process.

"Israel," Peres added, "is opposed to the participation in the elections of organizations belonging to the following three categories: organizations that support terrorism; organizations that seek to destroy the State of Israel; and organizations that seek to undermine the peace process."

Peres pointed out that despite all the difficulties, Israel "will continue the peace negotiations, particularly with the Palestinians. We do not conceal the difficulties," he said, "but they will not stand in our way."

Peres called on the Palestinian Authority [PA] "to take a serious view of the threat of terrorism from the Gaza Strip." The foreign minister feels that the PA "is capable of dealing with the problem."

Peres said that the measures recently adopted by the PA to deal with the problem of terrorism in areas under their control constitute "a step in the right direction." Peres stressed that the PA must yet prove that it capable of stopping the launching of terrorist attacks from areas within its jurisdiction. "The PA will be tested on the basis of its efforts. We do not expect a 100- percent success rate," Peres said.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 9 February in a report on page 3 by Hayim Shibi, Ilana Baum, and news agencies adds that "speaking in Washington yesterday after his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Peres said 'it is Syria's fault that the Syrian-Israeli track is stuck. I discovered that even Mubarak does not completely understand what al-Asad wants. The man remains a mystery. The speeches in support of terrorism coming from Damascus expose the dark side of the Syrian moon'."]

Hamas Involvement in Nahal 'Oz Attack Suspected

TA0902113595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The defense establishment is becoming increasingly convinced that the terror attack near Nahal 'Oz was perpetrated by members of Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads rather than by Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Our correspondent reports that a ballistic check revealed that the weapon used in the attack had been used before by Hamas squads in several attacks against Israelis in the Gaza Strip. So far, no organization has assumed responsibility for the attack, and Hamas even denied any link to it.

Hamas, Islamic Jihad Activists Detained in West Bank

TA0802084895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Early this morning, the security forces detained 21 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists in Judaea and Samaria. Military sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the activists were detained in Nabulus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Hebron. [passage omitted]

'Initial Details' of Plan To Separate Israel, West Bank

TA0802193195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 2 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Feb 95

[Army affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening, we have initial details of the Israeli plan to separate itself from the West Bank. In the first stage, a security strip will be defined and will be patrolled by police and army units. In the second stage, electronic means will be installed for the detection of infiltrators. Our Army affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel reports:

[Begin Daniyel recording] The team of experts headed by Police Minister Shahal has already formalized the principles of the plan for the execution of the separation the prime minister announced. A new term has been coined—the dividing-line zone. In fact, it is a security strip that will be 500 meters to 2 km wide, depending on geographic constraints, and will more or less stretch along the 1967 borderline. The old patrol roads, some of which have been preserved, will serve as the basis for the planned patrol roads and will be marked so that anyone crossing them will be aware of his actions.

The Tulkarm area is an example of this zone and the problems it presents. The open space serving as the basis for the separation borders on the outskirts of the Israeli communities. Assuming the responsibility for it, the Border Police will double the forces currently patrolling the dividing line, and new roadblocks will be erected in several places along the roads. Today, the roadblocks are manned by reserve soldiers who, at best, are not very efficient. The substitute will be modeled on the 'Oz River roadblock in the Gaza Strip: an organized crossing point, manned by well-trained police officers equipped with devices for the detection of false documents. The first stage of the redeployment will be complemented by lookout posts that will be manned by reservists.

The second stage will fill the dividing line with large quantities of electronic equipment and additional means, depending on the first stage's success in thwarting infiltrations. The committee speaks of monitor cameras in certain places that could follow the infiltrators and determine their position. The Magal and

REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority] companies have already presented the police top brass with details of their ability to provide such early warning and detection means.

All the elements currently pondering ways to implement the idea of separation believe that even when this strip is in full force, with its forces fully equipped, it will not constitute an absolute separation and will not be able to absolutely prevent an infiltration of terrorists aiming to carry out an attack in the Dan District area. This reality, they say, is hard to avoid regardless of the technical means. [end recording]

Housing Minister on 'Empty' Settlement Units

TA0802141495 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Feb 95 p 2

[Report by Hagay Porschner]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer disclosed yesterday that there remain 3,000 empty apartments in the occupied territories for which there is no demand.

He pointed out that "there is some demand for apartments in the Ari'el area," but stressed that "filling houses in the territories requires special government approval." [passage omitted]

The minister added: "Construction in the Golan Heights has been completed, and my ministry has no plans to go on building there. The main thrust of the Construction and Housing Ministry's current effort is to build the infrastructure of the Golan settlements. This consists of public buildings such as clubs, classrooms, and assembly halls."

UN Cancels Document Identifying PLO as 'State of Palestine'

TA0902061395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN Secretariat has canceled a document in which the PLO identified itself as the State of Palestine. The document in question is a letter addressed to the UN secretary general informing the UN members of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Papua and the State of Palestine. Following Israel's UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi's protest about the distribution of the letter, the secretariat announced that the document has been canceled.

Tzomet's Eytan Announces Candidacy for Prime Minister

TA0902114795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Feb 95 p 12

[Report by Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan yesterday announced plans to run for prime minister in 1996, but said he would withdraw if the nationalist camp decided jointly to support another candidate.

At a Knesset news conference, Eytan presented his platform in which he called for the annexation of the Jordan Valley and the southern Hebron hills "first" as an answer to the Gaza/Jericho First agreement.

"If we accept the Jordan River as our security boundary, the area between the Gilboa' and 'Arad will be our security belt," he said.

He said his plan could be expanded after negotiations. Eytan produced a map marking his planned "security belt," chosen because it is not densely populated by Arabs, he said. "We need to determine their status," he said without elaborating.

Eytan said he prefers the current status quo to the transfer of territory, adding that even countries which have signed peace treaties with Israel could become enemies if their regimes fell.

Regarding elections, Eytan said he is joining a call by the National Religious Party [NRP] for early balloting and that the NRP supports his candidacy. However, NRP MKs [Knesset members] denied they would throw its weight behind Eytan, and the party later issued a statement saying the nationalist camp should unite behind one candidate.

During the news conference, Eytan mostly focused on the need to combat terror. Eytan condemned those who say there is no way to fight suicide terrorists. "It can be combated and there is no need to just raise our arms (in defeat). All that is needed is intelligence and initiative, but you must have both of these elements, not just one or the other."

Eytan said fighting terror does not necessarily require a great deal of force, citing the bombing of PLO headquarters in Tunisia. He said he does not rule action in Syria against Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi or action in Gaza.

"We should not be deterred from collective punishment, including deportation; it's preferable to shooting," he said. Eytan said fathers should be held responsible for their stonethrowing children and a village mukhtar should be made to pay for damage to IDF [Israel Defense Forces] property.

Likud Criticizes Rabin Failure To Pressure 'Arafat

TA0902115395 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Likud Knesset faction has leveled sharp criticism against Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for not forcing Yasir 'Arafat to act decisively, as the Likud put it, against terrorism. Knesset Member Moshe Qatzav, the head of the Likud Knesset faction, attacked the prime minister and said that Rabin had once again humiliated himself before 'Arafat to no avail.

Beilin Discusses Peace Process, Trade With EU Troika

TA0902114095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Feb 95 p 2

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Visiting senior European Union (EU) officials said they want the EU-Israel trade agreement to be concluded after next week's negotiating session of experts, participants in last night's meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin at the Foreign Ministry said.

The EU delegation, led by France's Foreign Minister Alain Juppe—whose country holds the rotating presidency of the EU—will meet today with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza and later with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. They will also make a symbolic trip to Orient House in Jerusalem. While Beilin said Israel is not happy with the move, he said Israel could accept it since it is a "type of courtesy call" and no issues related to the Palestinian Authority will be discussed.

Both Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish and Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur will meet with the EU leaders today. Both have said the terms of the proposed agreement that the EU wants to conclude immediately are so poor they could not support the agreement once it came up in the cabinet for a vote.

Government ministers agree that the proposed agreement does not make a dent in the ballooning $7.4 billion trade deficit that Israel has with the EU, its largest trading partner.

Israel's trade deficit with the EU has mushroomed by $1.8 billion in the last year alone, equivalent to the annual US military aid it receives. The EU's trade surplus with Israel is equivalent to its trade surplus with 11 other countries in the Middle East and North Africa combined, Foreign Ministry officials say.

At a press conference last night, Juppe said, "We are used to the idea that the end of negotiations is the most crucial (stage). We think we have already made very exceptional arrangements for Israel, such as in the area of research and development." Juppe termed Israel's status with the EU "privileged."

Behind closed doors, participants suggested Juppe sometimes emphasized the reverse.

He said Israel should not expect to receive certain benefits reserved for those eastern European countries that would one day join the EU.

When Beilin said Israelis do not feel that they have received enough from Europe in return for the risks Israel is taking with its Arab neighbors, Juppe dismissed this as "exaggerated," participants said.

In the meeting, Juppe also rejected Israel's complaint that the EU is treating Israel like a "leper" and denying Israel a temporary seat in the "Western European and Others" bloc at the UN. Juppe said Israel must strive to join the UN's Middle East regional bloc.

Israeli officials believe this sort of European attitude is the height of hypocrisy, since the Europeans know very well that Iran or Libya would easily veto Israel joining the bloc.

At the same time, Australia is a member of the Western European bloc.

Being a member of a regional bloc is a prerequisite for being named to the UN Security Council, and Israel appears to be the only country of long-standing at the UN never named to the body in its 46-year history.

At the press conference, Juppe emphasized that the European countries have disbursed $100 million to the Palestinians, most of it for operating expenses.

Troika's Visit, Government's 'Spinelessness' Viewed

TA0902120195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Feb 95 p 6

[Editorial: "European Intimidation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Tripartite European delegation headed by France's Foreign Minister Alain Juppe is in Israel to bully the government. It wants Israel to lift the closure on the territories, which the European governments view not as a measure against terrorism but as collective punishment. It wants Israel to stop building Jewish homes in Judaea and Samaria, and particularly in the Jerusalem area, because it sees this building activity, rather than Palestinian terrorism, as the main obstacle to peace. And it wants a "larger role" for Europe in the peace process—a euphemism for the acceleration of Israeli withdrawal to the 1949 armistice lines and the relinquishment of the eastern part of Jerusalem.

It would be easier to listen to the Europeans had they come to the region with clean hands. But Israelis cannot forget that it was mostly European weaponry, financing, technical assistance, and diplomatic support that made it possible for Saddam Husayn to invade Kuwait and bomb Israel with Scuds. It is the Europeans who—with Russia, North Korea, and China—are turning Iran into a nuclear threat and helping Libya, Egypt, and Syria become major chemical- warfare powers. And it is their recent lifting of the arms embargo against Syria that enabled Syrian dictator Hafiz al-Asad to ignore American warnings against sponsoring Hizbullah, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and Islamic Jihad.

To add insult to these grave injuries, the delegation is defying a request by its host not to visit Orient House in

Jerusalem, which the Palestinian Authority has turned into its foreign ministry. Only countries with an odious colonialist tradition can treat a sovereign state as if it were a banana republic whose official requests can be safely and contemptuously disregarded. Clearly, no equivalent conduct by Israel would have been tolerated. An Israeli foreign minister who as much as contemplated meeting with the Basque leadership in Madrid, for example, would be unceremoniously thrown out of Spain.

Unfortunately, the government's own spinelessness must share the blame for this insult to Israeli sovereignty. None of the European governments would have allowed an equivalent of the Orient House to be established in their capitals. That it continues to be there, despite the flagrant violation of the Oslo agreement its very presence constitutes, is not the fault of the visiting officials.

Nor can the Europeans be blamed for treating Israeli warnings and official requests with less than complete respect. Not long ago Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that if Orient House became a PLO foreign ministry, the Oslo agreement would be canceled. Such hollow threats do not enhance Israel's credibility.

The government has had three choices in this instance. It could have called off the visit unless the delegation canceled its meeting at Orient House. Or it could have allowed the visit but refused to see the Europeans if they insisted on including Orient House in their itinerary. Or it could have done precisely what the new legislation enables it to do: close down Orient House for violating the agreement not to serve as an official government agency of the Palestinian Authority.

Instead, it ignobly chose to ignore the European rejection of its appeal and behave as if it never happened. Its decision is to play down the whole affair, in return for a European promise to keep the visit "low profile." The price of this compromise is further erosion of Israel's position in Jerusalem.

There are members of the government, led by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who believe this kind of placation will beget not only European friendship but economic benefits. Typical of this approach is the complaint by Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish and Agricultural Minister Ya'aqov Tzur about Europe's poor terms for the proposed EU-Israel free trade agreement. Feeling that the terms are so bad that they cannot support them, both ministers plaintively charge that the Europeans are not displaying the kind of goodwill Israel had a right to expect after "taking risks for peace with its Arab neighbors."

This expectation of reward for "good behavior" betrays the type of naivete of which national tragedies are made. Israel is an extraordinary customer of European goods. The EU, Israel's largest trading partner, enjoys a $7.4 billion trade surplus with Israel, far surpassing anything it has with the other 11 non-European Mediterranean nations. With Far Eastern trade now a viable alternative, Israel should be courted, not treated with contempt. If the Europeans feel that they can dictate terms, it is only because they sense that the government radiates weakness and inconsistency. Such feelings can only be magnified by the license they have received to promote the division of Jerusalem at Orient House.

Principles of Economic Group on Separation Detailed

TA0902113395 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 8 Feb 95

[Communication issued by the Finance Ministry spokesman; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The following is a summary of the working principles of the economic group, led by Finance Ministry Director-General David Brodet, which is assessing matters of "Separation":

1. The establishment of an economic regime and open trade relations between Israel and the Autonomy in the context of security issues.

2. A necessary condition, although not sufficient to stabilize peace, is economic stability and the strengthening of the Palestinian Authority's economy in the certainty that frustration coming from economic distress will be the basis for the flourishing of terrorism.

3. The working group's goal is to find logical solutions to reduce the friction in the movement of workers and in the movement of goods, although along with this, to ensure that the Palestinian economy has the necessary access to Israeli markets to ensure the appropriate economic existence of the Palestinians Authority.

David Brodet, Finance Ministry Director-General requested that the various representatives prepare coordinated working papers (between the various ministries) for the group's next meeting to occur on Tuesday, 14.2.95.

The papers will discuss the following topics:

—Information on the passage of Palestinian manpower to Israel.
—Information on the passage of agricultural goods to and from Israel.
—Suggestions on selecting trading areas to be created on the line between Israel and the Palestinian Autonomy.
—Suggestions on the creation of "special" industrial zones in which Palestinians will work.
—Assessments of international initiatives on the part of the community of donor nations.

It was also determined that at the next meeting, the commander of the National Explosives Disposal Unit of the Israel Police will be invited to present the Police's assessments of the matter.

Secretary Brown Departs, Minister Comments

JN0802143395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown left al-'Aqabah at noon today after talks with a number of Jordanian officials on bilateral relations.

In a joint news conference he held with Minister of Industry and Trade 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, the U.S. secretary hailed bilateral relations in various fields and stressed that his country is committed to the peace process in the region. Abu-al-Raghib and Brown described Taba meetings as very successful.

Engineer Abu-al-Raghib spoke to our correspondent on his meeting with Brown, saying:

[Begin Abu-al-Raghib recording] The meeting was attended by the Jordanian ministers of finance, planning, and tourism, in addition to myself. The meeting was held in al-'Aqabah due to the importance of the U.S. commerce secretary's presence in Jordan following the Taba meetings. The talks dealt with bilateral and regional issues. During the talks on bilateral issues, several subjects were raised, including encouraging investments and incentives for investing in Jordan, especially since there is a plan to allocate $750 millions to the region. The secretary emphasized that there is program to increase this sum and that this sum will be for the whole region, with special attention given to Jordan. There are issues that concern U.S. investors, such as intellectual property rights and the laws in Jordan, and how to amend them in order to cope with foreign investments.

The subject of writing off Jordanian debts and ways to deal with this issue were also discussed, as well as issues that concern the region. At present, there are agreements being concluded between Jordan and Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians, and between the Palestinians and Israel. There is a desire to have open economies in the region and to deal with these economies in a manner that ensures the success of the future economic ideas which we hope will find a suitable atmosphere in Jordan and in the countries of the region so that the aspired peace will prevail, and that this peace be a just and comprehensive peace that suits the requirements of the future stage and that is beneficial to the peoples of the region. [end recording]

Amman TV Reports Brown's Comments

JN0802213395 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 8 Feb 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] This morning, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown flew to al-'Aqabah, where he held talks with the Jordanian ministers of industry and trade, finance, planning, and tourism. Discussion focused on developing economic and trade relations between Jordan and the United States.

Before departure, and at a joint news conference with Industry and Trade Minister 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, Secretary Brown said the United States is committed to start talks with Jordan on a free trade agreement between the two countries.

Brown also renewed his country's commitment to the Middle East peace process, which, he said, was accelerating following the recent Arab-Israeli summit in Cairo.

[Begin recording] [Brown] I am particularly pleased to be here shortly following President Clinton's visit here in October, which I know was very important to President Clinton. He made a commitment that we begin negotiations of a bilateral free trade agreement with Jordan. I am informed by the ambassador that that process has begun. There is nothing that I am more committed to—the United States is more committed to—than enhancing the trade, and the economic, and the commercial, and the investment relationship between our two countries. We believe that economic development in Jordan and throughout the region is crucial to sustaining a lasting peace in the region. The peace process is moving forward unimpeded; that it is gaining momentum. Much of that was restarted by the leadership of President Mubarak. A meeting in Cairo last Thursday, attended by His Majesty King Husayn; that meeting and the meetings that have followed—it seems to me—give impetus to the peace process, give us a great deal of hope and optimism about the future.

[Abu-al-Raghib] We discussed all bilateral issues that are related to the United States and Jordanian relationship. And all these issues have been discussed in a progressive manner. And it was all positive in all these issues. I would like to emphasize that Mr. Brown's visit to al-'Aqabah is very important for us. We dealt with also regional issues that are coming to this area, particularly what is related to Amman economic summit, which is hopefully to be held in October 1995. [end recording]

Phase 2 of Israeli Withdrawal To Start

JN0802200295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In implementation of the articles enshrined in the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed on 26 October, phase two of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Jordanian territories will be implemented in the al-Baqurah area in northern Jordan and south of the al-Ghamr farmland up to al-Mallahat south of the Dead Sea tomorrow, Thursday. Thus, all occupied Jordanian territories will revert to Jordanian sovereignty. The Armed Forces will enter these territories, take up positions there, and hoist the Jordanian flag there.

Military ceremonies will be held by the Jordanian and Israeli sides on the occasion, as is usually done on such occasions.

It is to be recalled that phase one of the Israeli withdrawal was completed on 30 January. The area of the Jordanian territory to be recovered in the al-Baqurah area totals 830 donums, while the area of the land to be recovered in the Wadi al-'Arabah area totals approximately 340 square km.

Swiss Ambassador Recalled After Threats

JN0802200495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Western diplomatic sources in Amman have stated that the Swiss Government has recalled its ambassador in Jordan following threats against his life by Fatah-the Revolutionary Council, which is led by Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna].

It is to be noted that the Jordanian authorities had reassured Bern that they had taken the necessary measures to protect the Swiss ambassador in Amman.

Returns After Temporary Recall

JN0902080995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Feb 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The Swiss ambassador to Jordan, Gian Federico Pedotti, who returned to Amman last week following a temporary recall, met with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti on Wednesday [8 February]. No details were immediately available on the meeting, but it was believed that it covered the reasons for Mr. Pedotti's recall, which came after Swiss diplomats in the Middle East received death threats.

A Jordanian official said Mr. Pedotti was recalled home by the Swiss government "after it received death threats against Swiss diplomats in the Middle East, including the ambassador in Amman."

The official, who preferred anonymity, said Mr. Pedotti left Amman in mid-January despite assurances that all necessary precautions were taken to ensure his safety. Apparently, his return came after the Swiss Government was satisfied with the Jordanian security measures to protect the diplomat.

The French news agency, Agence France Presse, reported that the threats were issued by the Abu Nidal group after the Swiss government froze a Swiss bank account in the name of Abu Nidal himself.

Abu Nidal's real name is Sabri al-Banna. He heads the Fatah Revolutionary Council and is one of the most wanted men in the world for assassinations of and attacks against Western and Arab diplomats and interests.

It was not immediately clear whether the Swiss freeze of the account came in line with an American decision to freeze the assets and accounts of all known extremist groups and their leaders.

AFP said Mr. al-Kabariti had confirmed to the agency that Ambassador Pedotti was threatened by the Abu Nidal group. According to unnamed diplomats quoted by the agency, the Swiss government had told Mr. Pedotti that his "life was in danger."

The ambassador's departure had sparked speculation in some Swiss newspapers that it was somehow connected with a possible case against the former Jordanian ambassador to Switzerland Akram Barakat.

Mr. Barakat is accused of embezzling embassy funds.

Columnist Calls On Parties To Apologize for Visiting Syria

JN0902110295 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Feb 95 p 32

["Seven Days" column by Khalid Mahadin: "You Must Apologize to Us"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian parties and personalities who visited Damascus recently must make a public apology to all Jordanians. Any attempt at oneupmanship against us—king, people, and government—should be condemned and requires an apology. The pan-Arab uprising that exploded in the Jordanian street as a result of the international conspiracy against the Iraqi people forced some parties, personalities, and political forces to bend and mount the chaste and popular uprising. However, time has exposed the reality of these parties, personalities, and political forces, as well as their readiness to sell out Jordan, Iraq, and every Arab country whose loyalty is to the homeland and affiliation to the nation and which remained always ready to safeguard its Arab identity through practice, not through slogans, symposiums, and false words.

Jordan is the homeland of those who are faithful in their loyalty and affiliation. Those who did not wait long enough before exposing their nature have insulted us, not themselves, because our knowledge of most of them does not make the matter a surprise to us. If this democracy does not tolerate their words and makes them go outside the homeland to say whatever they want—inside the offices of others and through their recorders—and then to come back to us, we would like to ask: Did anyone stop them at the border? Has any governor summoned them to his office? Have their passports been seized? Has a junior official asked any of them: Did you really go to Damascus from southern Syria? Has whatever you said before our Syrian brothers drawn their respect or scorn, a smile of love and admiration or a look of ridicule and disregard? Do you believe others would like you, praise you, and announce their admiration for you because you curse your country, your politicians, and people and show hypocrisy and appeasement to those people?

It is now time to be fair with ourselves, more courageous in facing the harm done to us, and more truthful in dealing with issues at hand. Under no excuse or justification whatsoever can we allow the silence to continue in light of the oppression we are facing, the oneupmanship against us, or the stones and words being thrown at us. If we have parties that are getting paid from outside, then let us announce this quite frankly. Moreover, if we have parties whose allegiance is not to the homeland, its political leadership, or its kinsfolk, then we must take them into account and deal with them in a harsh way. Besides, if we have parties that see their patriotism outside Jordan, their pan-Arabism outside Jordan, and their revolutionary policies outside Jordan, then why are they still among us, under the protection of our democratic umbrella?

Those Jordanian parties and figures who went to Damascus for an objective known to us, and to them as well, should apologize to King Husayn, to the other Jordanian parties, and to our good and sincere people. No one has enough national, intellectual, and political qualities to put him in the position of exercising oneupmanship over a Jordanian child from Amman, al-Tafilah, Irbid, al-Ramtha, al-Salt, al-Mafraq, al-Karak, or from any village in Jordan, whose head remained high when the others' heads bowed. He remained standing when countless others fell down. He said a big "No" when he had to choose between standing in the trench of his homeland or standing in the trench of his enemies. He chose the homeland and rejected the enemies.

It is enough what we have suffered in the past in terms of apostasy, impiety, and disavowal. This is the homeland of everyone. Whoever does not want it to be so is not one of us. Moreover, whoever wants our homeland to be something the majority of us do not want can leave; the doors are open for that, just as they are open for entering.

So no one gets the wrong idea, we say: If someone came to us from Damascus, just like those who went to it, we would tell him: Your homeland is more worthy of your stand, word, courage, and opinion. However, we are sure that none of the people of Damascus will come to us, as our sons went to it. If any of them did so, he would receive the right punishment, blame, and discipline. The capitals are not lenient with those who step out of the consensus. This is what is being done by our capital, whose leniency has tired us. It is time not to be lenient with our capital's leniency toward those who are disloyal to it and to us.

Daily Hopes Taba Communique Will Give Peace 'New Incentive'

JN0902090095 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Feb 95 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "The Taba Communique on Regional Cooperation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Taba communique on regional cooperation issued yesterday at the end of a five-way meeting between the ministers of economy and trade of Jordan, Egypt, the Palestinian self-rule authority, and Israel as well as the U.S. secretary of commerce, acquires a great deal of importance for two reasons:

First, this meeting falls between two conferences for peace and development. These are the Casablanca meeting of last year—which declared the beginning of the era of economic and comprehensive development in light of peace—and the Amman meeting which will be held next October to bring this declaration into existence.

Second, the five-way communique is an immediate translation of the quadrilateral summit for peace recently hosted by Cairo.

Within this context, we note Jordan's eagerness to activate all aspects of the peace process, the most important of which is improving the standard of living of people in the entire region. This is because the peace of the generations, which Jordan advocates, basically aims at pushing the wheel of development along the entire peace map. Development is the basic ingredient of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace which puts the region and its people at the threshold of a new stage with its own challenges and requirements on the national, regional, and international levels. This is the stage which His Majesty King Husayn described as the healthy and natural climate that should provide the coming generations with opportunities to achieve their dreams and aspirations and to obtain their rights under a future based on peace, mutual respect, and cooperation.

Within this context, it is also necessary to refer to Crown Prince Hasan's intellectual and practical efforts in the field of regional economic development, which his highness considers as one of the strong elements of a lasting peace in the region in addition to democracy and social justice.

In light of this, we hope that the Taba resolutions on regional cooperation will constitute a new incentive to complete the elements of peace from its political aspect, especially on the Palestinian- Israeli track. This is in order to allow the train of cooperation and development to move along the track of the Taba communique, without obstacles that would get it off track, starting with Cairo and passing through Arab Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and ending in Amman. We also have great hope that this train will pass through the capitals of the entire region in the current and future stages of peace.

House Speaker Meets With Acting PNC Speaker

JN0802173895 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] House of Representatives Speaker Engineer Sa'd Hayil al-Surur received Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], at his office at the Parliament this morning. The PNC director general attended.

The talks addressed the means of promoting and enhancing bilateral parliamentary ties.

'Senior Officials': Chechnya Part of Russian Federation

JN0902081595 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Feb 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordan considers Chechnya as part of the Russian Federation but does not condone Moscow's "inhuman" handling of the separatist rebellion in the Caucasus republic, senior officials said Wednesday [8 February].

The officials also said Jordan viewed the conflict in Chechnya as over and would seek information of Chechens of Jordanian origin said to be detained by Russian forces or stranded in the area since Moscow sent in its army to Chechenya to quell the separatist movement there during a visit here today (Thursday) by a Russian envoy.

At the same time, Jordan would not accept any Russian criticism of the Kingdom's Parliament, which issued a statement last month in support of the Chechens, said the officials.

"We consider that the conflict in Chechnya is already over," said a senior official referring to the end of large-scale battles in the breakaway republic more than two weeks ago after Russia poured in military might against Chechens seeking independence.

"Jordan considers Chechnya as part of the Russian Federation, but it believes that the way that Moscow dealt with the conflict there was not proper," added the official, who, like other officials who spoke to the JORDAN TIMES on the issue, preferred anonymity.

"It was an inhuman way of handling the crisis and in violation of all norms of human rights and we condemn such atrocities," added the official. Russian experts were quoted as saying in Moscow on Tuesday that at least 25,000 civilians were killed in the battle between Russian forces and Chechen fighters in the eight-week-old crisis.

Victor Posovalyuk, an envoy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, is scheduled to arrive here Thursday for talks expected to include Russian concern over the support that the Kingdom's Chechen community is extending to their kinsmen in Chechnya. The envoy is expected to hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti.

"We expect (Moscow) to express its displeasure over some of the positions adopted by our Parliament" in support of Chechens, said the official, "But Jordan will make clear that it is not disposed to take any criticism of its Parliament or the decisions adopted by its legislature."

"We have a free and unrestricted Parliament which follows democratic norms and practices, and there is no reason anyone should take up issue with its resolutions," added the official. "Voices in Parliament may or may not reflect government policy, but that does not mean that anyone from outside the country could criticise our elected representatives."

The official and others implicitly confirmed comments by Deputy Toujan Faysal, spokesman for the Jordanian Chechen community, that the Kingdom told the Chechen foreign minister, Shamsuddin Ala'iddin Yusuf, that Chechnya should accept a Russian offer of autonomy.

Mr. Yusuf met with Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim this week during a visit to Jordan, but could not meet with Mr. al-Kabariti, who was attending meetings in Cairo.

"Mr. Yusuf left Jordan with a message that Chechnya should submit to the Russian offer of self-rule," Ms. Faysal told the JORDAN TIMES.

The deputy quoted Mr. Yusuf, who was sent abroad by Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev to drum up support for the Chechen cause, as expressing hope that Jordan would continue to extend humanitarian assistance to Chechens.

In talks with Mr. Posovaluk, Mr. al-Kabariti and other Jordanian officials are expected to seek ways to help Jordanian of Chechen origin detained by Russian forces and also those stranded in other republics surrounding Chechnya after they lost their travel documents.

Russian Envoy Visits, Comments on Meetings

NC0802190195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Middle East and North Africa Department in the Russian Foreign Ministry, today visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. He visited Damascus yesterday. He announced that Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will visit Beirut around the end of March in a bid to advance the peace process in the region. Posuvalyuk is expected to go to Damascus this evening after his meeting with President al-Hirawi in the B'abda Palace this evening.

Earlier today, Posuvalyuk visited Foreign Minister Buwayz and reviewed developments in the Middle East and bilateral relations. After the meeting, Posuvalyuk said that last year bilateral relations between Lebanon and Russia had made some success. He disclosed that he and Buwayz had discussed the coming visit to Lebanon by Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev around the end of March. He noted that the visit aims at upgrading bilateral relations and discussing regional affairs.

Responding to a question, Posuvalyuk warned that any suspension of the peace process would be dangerous and would reward the enemies of peace in the region. He called for refraining from exchanges of attacks in the media because they harm the peace process. He stressed that Russia will continue coordinating with the United States over the peace process, noting in this respect the latest meeting in Geneva between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Russian counterpart Kozyrev.

Posuvalyuk said political will and practical steps are required for progress on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks. He said:

[Begin Posuvalyuk recording in Arabic] We are very satisfied with our political dialogue with Lebanon and its leaders. I am pleased to tell you that the main topic we discussed today was arrangements for the visit to Lebanon by Andrey Kozyrev as part of his tour of the Middle East. We agreed on this visit, which we hope will help upgrade our bilateral relations. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Just in from the editor's desk: The meeting between President al-Hirawi and Posuvalyuk ended a short while ago. Posuvalyuk said that Lebanon is witnessing positive domestic developments, an improvement in the economic situation, and growing opportunities for national accord. He stressed that Russia supports Lebanon, its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and Security Council Resolution 425. He pointed out that Russia will work with the United States to remove the obstacles impeding the peace process and will try to advance it.

Hizballah: Clinton Asset Freeze 'Joke'

NC0902111095 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 27 Jan 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Commenting on U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to freeze assets belonging to several Islamic organizations and personalities in the Middle East, including Hizballah, his eminence Shaykh Na'im Qasim, deputy secretary general of Hizballah, made the following statement:

The U.S. decision is an overt and unsuccessful theatrical action for several reasons:

1. Neither Hizballah nor Hizballah personalities have assets in the United States. We inform Clinton that our assets exist in the hearts and arms of the mujahidin, oppressed, and liberals in the world who cling to human rights, freedom, and dignity. This is a joke by Clinton designed to boost the morale of the usurping entity and to notify the world that he possesses the means to put pressure on Hizballah and other organizations and personalities who seek freedom for their countries.

2. This decision indicates that the United States is desperately attempting to support Israel, even if it entails spreading lies and looking for imaginary means to prop up the usurping entity. The United States is always looking for ways to obstruct the people's movement and to harm the revolutions in the world. The United States is not convinced that the tormented children in southern Lebanon, Palestine, and all parts of the world have rights that must be supported instead of the usurping Israeli occupation.

3. In our confrontation of the Israeli escalation and the usurpation of the land, we cannot remain mere spectators. We are in a state of self-defense. In Palestine the Palestinians are defending themselves and in Lebanon the Islamic Resistance and the Lebanese people are defending themselves. We are not aggressors but are repelling an aggression. It is usurping Israel and those who support it who should be confronted and not the people because the people are in a state of explosion. There will be no peace at the expense of the land, dignity, and humanity. Rights should be given to their owners so that peace can prevail. No one will accept a humiliating peace.

The United States is desperately attempting to prop up Israel. We wish we heard regret or condolences over the victims of the Sfayr [Beirut southern suburb] explosion or the Palestinian children, women, and youth killed by Israeli soldiers. However, we only hear support for the aggressive soldiers in any position, even if they are in a state of complete military preparedness. We salute the mujahidin in Palestine. We consider the recent operation [in Beit Lid] legal, honorable, and dignified. We urge more of these operations because the usurping entity does not give people their right unless they sacrifice. We see that the arrogant world, headed by the United states, does not want to give the people of our region their rights. [passage omitted]

Writer Examines U.S. 'Hostile' Position, Goals

NC0802134895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic publishes on page 3 of its 4 February edition a 1,500-word news analysis by 'Amir Mashmushi in which he examines the reasons why "the American supportive position on Lebanon has turned hostile." The writer sees signs of this hostility "in the published statement about human rights violations in Lebanon" and official U.S. statements prior to the Washington meeting to discuss lifting the ban on U.S. travel to Lebanon, statements that said that "lifting the ban is premature, since the security situation in Lebanon does not encourage such a step."

Citing "an Arab diplomat," Mashmushi points out that "Lebanon's support for and coordination with Syria at the peace negotiations has annoyed and still annoys the United States," particularly after the Alexandria summit that brought presidents al-Asad and Mubarak and King Fahd together "in the first Arab act of solidarity against Arab discord and capitulation to the so-called normalization of relations with Israel."

"Annoyed by that summit, the United States, according to the Arab diplomat, had to put pressure on the three countries involved, military at times and financial at others," Mashmushi says. He points out that this "explains" the return of disturbances on the Saudi-Yemeni borders, the security pressure on Syria through frequent aggression on south Lebanon, and the escalating tension in the Egyptian domestic arena between the authorities and the fundamentalists.

He believes that the first result of this American pressure was Egypt's call for "an Arab-Israeli summit to counter the Arab summit." He notes here that the Israeli prime minister revealed the goal of that summit when he said that it was "a message to Syria, so that it will understand that it will be isolated at the Arab level if it does not join the peace agreement and normalize relations with Israel."

Pointing out that this "explains the American pressure on Lebanon at present," he cites a "prominent government source" who revealed that U.S. envoy Martinez, who visited Lebanon a few weeks ago, "conveyed direct threats to the Lebanese officials if they do not break their engagement with Syria." According to the source, this prompted the president, the prime minister, and the foreign minister to send a "message" to the Americans affirming that "Lebanon's cohesion with Syria is a no-bargain strategic matter and the pressure being put on Lebanon either by the Israelis or Americans will only strengthen its insistence on and commitment to this strategy."

Therefore, the writer explains, the U.S. Administration started to cast doubts on the ability of the U.S.-Lebanese security committee to reach a decision soon on lifting the ban on Americans' travel to Lebanon and leaked a report that accused the Lebanese Government of violating human rights and blamed the Syrian presence for the failure to implement the al-Ta'if agreement. A government source believes that "America's return to raising the issue of the Syrian presence in Lebanon at this particular time and its accusation that Syria is controlling the Lebanese decisionmaking process and obstructing political life there are a clear indication of the noticeable shift in the American stance on Lebanon and Syria." Asking what Washington wants from Lebanon, the writer cites the government source as saying that "the American position focuses on breaking the Syrian-Lebanese alliance in the peace process, since separating Lebanon from Syria weakens the latter's position in the talks and isolates it from the Arab world...and eventually forces Syria to accept the American conditions, the same Israeli conditions that Syria rejected."

Citing the same government source, Mashmushi writes that America can pursue a number of approaches "to break Lebanon's engagement with Syria." Of these he mentions the Lebanese Army's involvement in a "conflict with the armed resistance in the south" that benefits Israel and makes Syria and Lebanon lose an important bargaining chip in negotiations; striking at Hizballah and curbing its activity through Mosad operations and sabotage networks; forcing Lebanon to attend social and economic conferences that Israel attends in the context of the normalization policy; demanding Lebanon implement the Cairo agreement on the Syrian troop withdrawal, since their presence frustrates any sabotage operation by the Mosad; and, finally, interfering directly in the upcoming presidential elections by refusing a second term for al-Hirawi because of his "strong alliance with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad." The writer maintains that the United States "has already started to promote some names known for their sympathy with America and for being unsatisfactory to Damascus."

Mashmushi adds that the regional and international climate is "not encouraging" and that the Lebanese officials therefore fear "internal security shakeups...to ruin Lebanon's reputation." To illustrate, he cites the issue of toxic waste and rumors that people's deputies push drugs.

He concludes that this makes it imperative for the Lebanese officials to be vigilant at this critical stage, particularly since Washington has started to imply the need to "lift the bank secrecy measures under the excuse of fighting drug money laundering." He maintains that the real goal of all this is to deprive Lebanon of "an important economic card in the context of pressure, on the one hand, and to make Israel the state with banks ready to receive Arab funds in the stage of peace."

Hizballah Radio Views Cairo 'Summit of the Weak'

NC0902112295 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 9 Feb 95

[From the "Spotlights on Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Much reluctance dominates Cairo's policy these days. The Egyptian regime, which has opted for a settlement with the Zionist state, is pondering the situation to review issues more carefully and consider the future of interests and roles after many facts have changed.

We see Cairo hosting a tripartite Arab summit prompting great U.S.-Israeli reservations. Then Cairo hosts a quadripartite summit drawing unparalleled U.S. praise.

Is the aim to occupy an empty arena or does Cairo see that its role is much greater than to be determined by Washington and Israel and (?criticized) by some Arab parties that have not yet signed deals with Israel? Is it a sense of emptiness or fear of the unknown? Is it a sense of power or fear that others might weaken it?

Cairo realizes that no one wants her to assume the role [words indistinct] and even Cairo does not want such a role. Cairo today is hesitating between the (?past), [words indistinct], present, sense of loss, future, and probabilities. It [words indistinct] one thing and its opposite. It [word indistinct] support in the Syrian stance that insists on rejecting any concessions and support [word indistinct] for 'Arafat's yielding stance. Of course it does not forget that Israel [words indistinct] from the Egyptian stance.

Within this climate was Cairo's four-way Egyptian-Zionist-Jordanian-'Arafatist summit held to address the weakness and [word indistinct] of each of its participants. The summit was held to give the Egyptian what he wants, to give the Zionist what he wants, the Jordanian what he wants, and the 'Arafatist some of what he wants. But the major beneficiary is the Zionist enemy, because he is involved in the Arab cause from a strong position and shares with the Arabs in their dialogue, discussions, future, fate, and wealth.

But denouncing terrorism or armed struggle against the Zionist state was [words indistinct], because it cannot halt the armed jihad. Cairo does not—it is not strong enough—protect the Zionist state. The same thing applies to Amman. But Gaza is the strip boiling under 'Arafat's feet [words indistinct].

The enormous U.S. welcome for the summit and praise for Egypt's role are no more than an attempt to turn the empty quadripartite meeting into a genuine [word indistinct] gain, but this lacks credibility and real strength.

The summit of the peace partners faces major obstacles. One obstacle is that a destitute can offer nothing, and this applies to the Arab parties that are required to grant security for the enemy but cannot. Another obstacle is that the enemy has no intention of backing down or yielding. The enemy is seeking to achieve free gains that cost him no withdrawal, obligations, or anything of the kind. Another obstacle is that the region's nations do not even agree on the proposed (?line) of settlement and consider it a great injustice, the stealing and usurping of rights, and the assassination of hopes. So how can they remain silent?

Thus the summit of the settlement signatories is weaker than the challenges that impose themselves and too weak to provide the required momentum for the settlement process to complete its journey.

The summit of the settlement partners is the summit of the weak who seek support from the weak. Weak people's reliance on each other can only generate more impotence.

If Rabin and 'Arafat complained to each other about the Islamist mujahidin's activity in Palestine, it means that the two sides are unable to confront the jihad movement and unable to form an alliance against that movement and halt its activities and disband it.

Summit Implication Viewed

NC0802134795 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 4 Feb 95 p 2

[News analysis by George Saliba]

[FBIS Translated Text] The joint statement issued by the quadripartite summit meeting in Cairo between Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinian Authority does not relieve Lebanese officials from feeling that they are in the position of having to drink "the bitter medicine."

Interpreting that statement, Beirut sees that as much as it and Syria are "invited to achieve a peace agreement with Israel in the near future," it is equally invited to take precautions against a practical interpretation of the quadripartite statement, particularly after the United States and the four parties have signed a security cooperation agreement that will help them confront "strongly the acts of bloodshed, terrorism, and violence in the region and put an end to all such acts."

Beirut believes that such a wide political-security framework does not excuse it from being in the impending "center of events" in the future. Cairo's final statement makes it mandatory on Lebanon to resume bilateral negotiations and achieve full peace with Israel soon. The statement indirectly warned Lebanese officials that the time that the negotiations on the Lebanese-Israeli track will take is the same time needed by the five parties to implement the security measures that they will sign in Washington.

Beirut saw in the quadripartite statement a warning that begins by defining the geographic range of the parties taking part in the phrasing of the final statement and culminates in the parties' assertion of their determination to cooperate among themselves to confront what the statement calls "the acts of bloodshed, terrorism, and violence in the region."

It is obvious that Beirut is meant by that warning, because of its commitment to resist the Israeli occupation of parts of its territory in the south and western al-Biqa'. Moreover, it is aware of the Israeli stance as expressed in a call by Rabin's government to establish stability in the vicinity of the area Israel calls "the security strip" in the south before the Israeli Government embarks on a practical interpretation of its stance, which denies having any ambitions on Lebanese land and water.

According to diplomatic experts in Beirut, it is clear that Israel wanted to transform the confrontation between it and the "Islamic Resistance" into a political and security showdown between the Lebanese authority and its security arm on the one hand and the political symbols of the resistance, as well as the resistance itself, on the other. After the Cairo summit, and in collaboration with the other parties, Israel will seek to force Lebanon not only to embark urgently on resuming negotiations on the Lebanese-Israeli track but also to respond to Rabin's demand to impose stability in the south. Or else, it would find itself before the single choice of receiving blows from the "five-sided cooperation," which believes that Lebanon provides a refuge and springboard for "the terrorist powers" in their operations, either against the Israeli occupation troops on Lebanese territory or the powers allied with them, such as the South Lebanese Army.

According to experts, this does not prevent the "five parties" from charging that "Islamic fundamentalist powers in Lebanon provide support and assistance to the Palestinians who are opposed to the peace process and the Palestinian self-rule authority under 'Arafat's chairmanship."

These experts believe that once developments reach that point, it would not help Lebanon to hold any contacts with the Americans or friendly states to halt a U.S.-sponsored security mechanism of that volume. Hence, its will have little time to redraft its strategy in case it does not reach a comprehensive peace with Israel soon. Will the Lebanese officials make that choice before it is too late?

Article on Summit's Problem

NC0902135695 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 3 Feb 95 p 3

[Article by Muwaffaq Madani: "The 'Predicament' of the Quadripartite Summit and the Peace Coalition"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Regardless of the motives and justifications for holding Cairo's quadripartite Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli summit and the interpretation that it was a reaction to or a retraction of the Alexandria summit between Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, the summit needs to respond to several questions. These questions are connected with the relationships between the parties who have signed peace agreements with each other. The same questions are not being posed with the same urgency to those parties who have not signed similar agreements.

The problems arising from peace agreements like the one signed by Egypt, Jordan, the PLO, and Israel are much greater than any problems faced by Syria and Lebanon, for example.

Take Israel, for instance. Can the summit compel Rabin's government to stop building settlements in the occupied territories, an activity that provokes violence illustrated by Netanya's recent bombing?

This Palestinian violence is caused by profound fears that the Oslo and Cairo Agreements between the PLO and Israel have failed to allay. These agreements brought no reassurance and did not make the Palestinians in the occupied territories or abroad feel that what has happened is a real peace. Nothing in the statements made by the PLO leaders themselves shows that the Oslo Agreement has entrenched the feeling of peace among the Palestinians, either in the self-rule area or outside it.

Furthermore, will the quadripartite summit make Rabin's government reconsider its decision to separate Israel from the Palestinians in the occupied territories? This last decision is bound to heighten social tension among the Palestinians, who have not yet seen any of the economic stability and prosperity that they were promised as a result of international aid after the Oslo Agreement.

It is as if the Oslo Agreement's function has so far been to produce all this blood and hardship in the occupied territories.

Additionally, can the quadripartite summit eliminate the existing tension in Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the deep apprehensions involved in these two sides' rivalry on future sovereignty over the West Bank?

This impasse has been fueled by the Oslo and Wadi al-'Arabah agreements. The Israelis played the game in a manner suggesting that, although peace was being made, inter-Arab relations were not going to become any better than they were before this peace.

Another problem that the quadripartite summit had to face was the standoff between Israel and Egypt, and hence all the other Arabs, over Israel's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Since the Camp David Accords were signed, Egyptian-Israeli relations have not reached such a level of tension, opposition, and mutual suspicion as they now have over this crucial issue on which depends the future regional balance in the context of the desired peace.

It is clear that Egypt refuses to submit to Israeli military superiority because that might ruin its future role in the Middle East and benefit Israeli plans for military hegemony.

As Shim'on Peres noted yesterday, it does not seem that the summit will handle or solve this Egyptian-Israeli disagreement.

Another problem, which Peres himself did not expect the summit to solve, was the question of progress regarding the implementation of the Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as the PLO insists. The PLO, like other parties, has suspicions about Israel's intentions to implement the agreements it has concluded.

This is a small selection of the problems caused by the peace among these four countries. They have reached a peace but cannot handle its worsening side effects that have caused repercussions, the least of which has been the Netanya incident and which include the current violence inside Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Gaza, and Jericho.

This violence mirrors the major predicament of those who accepted these peace and compromise formulas. It mirrors it better than the media of the four countries concerned, who speak about peace anthems and rosy hopes.

The quadripartite summit was held more because of its own predicament than because of its differences with the peace opponents or those who have reservations about peace and demand that its conditions be improved.

After these many months of separate peace deals by these countries, no one expected their problems, burdens, and contradictions to reach the point where some senior analysts, particularly U.S. analysts, have begun to doubt that a Middle East settlement can be finalized.

Those observers believe that what has occurred has been a series of compromises that have failed to change the conditions in the region or the circumstances of its inhabitants. They do not regard what has been achieved as peace but as the introduction of new circumstances that might or might not alter relations and the general atmosphere in the Middle East. However, they believe that it is certainly not peace as such, neither to the countries who have signed it nor to those who reject it.

Peres, as he put it, wanted this four-way meeting to be a coalition of peace. This coalition, however, is facing major problems among the countries who forged it that they cannot solve.

Hizballah Praises Beit Lid Suicide Operation

NC0902120295 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 27 Jan 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the martyrdom operation in Tel Aviv carried out by the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, Hizballah has issued the following statement:

At a time when the Oslo accord staggers left and right and when Yasir 'Arafat loiters on the doorsteps of the Zionists, begging for insulting and humiliating handouts, a brave youngster in occupied Palestine from the youngsters of Islam and jihad set about to remind the world that the usurping Jews are desecrating the Holy Land and that Palestine is still alive in the minds and souls of its sons and in the blood of its brave youth. Despite their wounds, these youths have inflicted on the Zionist enemy's soldiers blow after blow, recording the most wonderful epic of heroism in Tel Aviv, the stronghold of colonization and usurpation.

The time has come for the Zionist rulers and global arrogance—who are trying to erase the Arab and Islamic nation's character and who are mobilizing all their resources to peddle their wicked political program and to change firm historical facts through fragile agreements with some parties and the so-called Middle East conferences—the time has come for them to realize that the will of the nations of the region is much bigger than can be contained by humiliating deals with middlemen. The time has come for them to realize that the continuing distortion of the Arab and Islamic causes will not stand before the fact of the blood sacrifice, even if they control all the clubs of the United Nations and the UN Security Council.

The heroic and daring operation in Tel Aviv is eloquent proof added to the hundreds of proofs of the fragility of all the U.S.-Israeli plans; of the lie of the artificial, imposed, and humiliating peace; and of the false claims of 'Arafat and his group of being representatives of the brave Palestinian people.

We congratulate our Islamic nation on this honorable operation. We proudly salute the hero and struggler martyr and all the martyrs of our Islamic nation. We urge our comrades in the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas, and all the Palestinian national and Islamic factions in occupied Palestine to continue this line of struggle in defense of their people, cause, and land. We also urge the dear Palestinian people who have adopted the path of sacrifice and pursued the course of the patient believers to rally around their struggling and mujahidin brothers.

Reportage on European Troika Delegation Visit

Al-Asad Meets With Delegation

JN0802170395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received the European troika delegation led by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe at the People's Palace at 1245 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended.

Discussion during the meeting revolved around the Middle East peace process, its current condition, and the role that Europe can play in that process. Discussions also centered on Syrian-European relations.

Juppe and the European delegation presented the European position on the peace process. They said the EU [European Union] believes that peace on the Syrian track necessitates Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories. They also said that the EU is prepared to offer any possible contribution needed to push the peace process forward.

The president welcomed an active European role to boost the peace process and to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. He said: Syria, which had a principal role in launching the regional peace process, adheres to this process.

The president reviewed the obstacles Israel has placed and is placing on the path of progress toward a just and comprehensive peace from the Madrid Conference until now. He said: Israel's conduct and positions do not make one optimistic. Syria, however, will not abandon the goal of a just and comprehensive peace that is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Al-Shar', EU's Juppe Hold News Conference

JN0802180695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe held a news conference at the Meridian Hotel this afternoon. (Von Bloyt), German minister of state for foreign affairs; (Carlos Visentedorb), Spanish minister of State for EU [European Union] Affairs; and (Manuel Marine), EU deputy commissioner general attended.

At the onset of the news conference, al-Shar' said he is deeply satisfied with the visit of the troika delegation led by Juppe and including the German and Spanish ministers of state and (Manuel Marine), EU deputy commissioner general.

Al-Shar' described the meeting between the troika delegation and his excellency the president today as a positive and constructive meeting. He said that it took place in a cordial atmosphere during which the Syrian and European sides expressed their eagerness to establish the best of relations among them in all fields, particularly after the obstructions have been removed from the path of these relations. Al-Shar' explained that the peace process was the basic topic discussed during the meeting with his excellency the president and that viewpoints were in agreement on the need to establish a just and comprehensive peace and to pursue the peace process on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace principle.

The foreign minister said the forthcoming Barcelona conference among EU and Mediterranean countries was discussed. Al-Shar' said: We understood that the European side pins special importance on this conference. Al-Shar' said: We will study the invitation extended to us with great care, and we hope that future developments in the peace process will help in making the appropriate decision for effective Syrian participation in the Barcelona conference.

For his part, Juppe said the EU gives special importance to relations with Syria. He said that they have been constantly progressing over the past months. He referred to the first meeting of the Syrian-European Cooperation Council last November, and the EU's decision to lift the arms embargo on Syria. He said: We started with financial cooperation, which had been suspended over the past years.

The Spanish minister of state for EU affairs recounted all the projects under implementation. He said: We will continue on this road.

Juppe said: We explained to our Syrian partners the project of a Mediterranean conference intended to be held in Barcelona in November and that the purpose of this conference is to establish a genuine partnership between European and Mediterranean countries. He said he hoped that Syria will participate in it. Juppe described his talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad as very positive and that the same applies to the working session with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. He said: A frank discussion of economic topics was held, such as the financial arrears, as well as political and international topics, and the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. He added: But, the peace process took most of our time.

Juppe said the EU strongly supports the peace process in the region. He said: There can be no going back on this process and it should be continued as al-Shar' has stated.

Juppe stressed that peace must be achieved on the basis of the UN Security Council resolutions and on the basis of complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights, complete normalization of ties, and an endeavor to achieve security arrangements approved by the two parties.

The French minister voiced concern over the stalemate in the peace process. He said: We have seen that in order to boost the peace process, an initiative must be taken to hold further dialogue and encourage those who have chosen peace.

Juppe added: We are prepared to play our role in full if that suits the two parties. This is the purpose of this troika visit.

Asked about how the EU can play an effective role in the peace process at a time when Israel rejects such a role, He said: We have not gone to Jerusalem yet, so one cannot say there has been a rejection. True, we have realized the need to support the peace process on the basis of the UN Security Council resolutions and we have found certain aspects of obstruction and stalemate, but we will not accuse anyone of being responsible for these obstacles. We will hold a dialogue with Israel in the same clear language. Our role is to build bridges and to make dialogue possible.

In that regard, al-Shar' commented: Syria believes that an effective European role to boost the peace process and make it reach its desired goal is appropriate. Syria also thinks that such a European role is in the interest of all parties. We hope that this role can be activated in the forthcoming phase.

Asked about the mechanism which the EU may use to achieve an effective role in the peace process, Juppe said: We are prepared to play a role because we already have a presence through financial and economic aid. We are the major contributing group, in terms of providing funds and loans, and this justifies our effort to boost the peace process. We do not intend to make initiatives that would interfere with what has already been made. We do not want to complicate the process, it is already complicated. The ball remains in the court of the states in the region, which must express their desire to see a European role.

Here, al-Shar' interrupted to say: But the ball is not in Syria's court at any rate.

Juppe was asked if Israel is invited to the Barcelona conference and how Syria could attend such a conference without first achieving progress in the peace process. Juppe said: Yes, the EU will invite the Arab Maghreb states, the Middle Eastern states, and the Mediterranean states, such as Turkey, Cyprus, and Malta. The invitation also applies to Israel and Syria.

More on Al-Shar', Juppe News Conference

JN0802212895 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe held a news conference this afternoon. The news conference was attended by (Von Bloyt), German minister of state for foreign affairs, (Carlos Visentedorb), Spanish minister of state for EU [European Union] affairs, and (Manuel Marine), the EU deputy commissioner. [passage omitted]

Juppe was asked if Israel is invited to the Barcelona conference and how Syria could attend such a conference without first achieving progress in the peace process. Juppe said: Yes, the EU will invite the Arab Maghreb states, the Middle East states, and the Mediterranean states, such as Turkey, Cyprus, and Malta. The invitation also applies to Israel and Syria.

Minister Juppe said that this Mediterranean conference does not intend to deal with issues related to the peace process. He said: We will not mix the two issues. Our objective is to lay down the guidelines for partnership between Europe and the Mediterranean states for the next 10 years. This is especially true with regard to political dialogue, stability, security, and economic, trade, and financial cooperation. Finally, there is the human, cultural, and educational dimension. In other words, discussions will deal with all that can revive relations between cultures that sometimes differ. We believe that the countries to which invitations were extended can all have their place in the conference. We will continue to participate in the essence of the peace process through the multilateral negotiations and away from the Barcelona conference.

Al-Shar' said: Alain Juppe explained that the Barcelona conference which will be held in November this year will not be a conference within the framework of the multilateral talks. However, on the other hand, in light of this explanation, we promised to study this issue, proceeding from our convictions and expectations that if the next months bear positive developments related to the peace process, this will help the adoption of a Syrian decision to participate in the Barcelona conference.

On whether there is contradiction between the European and U.S. interests in the region, Juppe said: I do not see any contradiction. We wish the peace process success. Both the United States and the EU have a role in the region from a historical, economic, and security perspective. Each side complements the other. We all have relations of friendship with the region's states. No one is a substitute for the other. We are equals.

In response to a question on how to escape from the impasse or stalemate on the Syrian-Israeli track, Juppe said: We are not casting doubts about the U.S. role. The United States is playing a role in the peace process. It is natural that the EU will take part in the peace process by virtue of geographic proximity, historical ties, and the economic aid that is presented. For our part, we insist that we have not come to impose ourselves. We will be useful if we are requested to be so. We will continue our efforts.

For his part, al-Shar' explained that the European role we are expecting in the peace process aims to help the concerned parties to implement UN Security Council resolutions in accordance with the bases set for them in Madrid. With the United States being the cosponsor of the peace process, besides the Russian Federation, this does not necessarily mean a contradiction with the U.S. position

Al-Shar' added: What interests us is for the European role to proceed from the bases laid down for the peace process at the Madrid conference. Those are based on international legitimacy, UN Security Council resolutions, the land-for-peace principle, and full withdrawal in return for comprehensive peace. This is our understanding of the European role. We believe that this is in the interest of all parties in and outside the region, as I have already noted.

Juppe was asked about the belated European move toward the peace process in the region. He said: Better late than never. Many things have happened. We cannot let it be said that Europe is indifferent. Juppe added that the multilateral negotiations are important and will prove to be as such in the future. He added: There is a major European presence, for Europe heads the multilateral regional committee for regional economic development. It has an active role in it. We are present, and seek not to be forgotten.

In response to a question on the presence of indications to the resumption of contacts at the ambassadorial level in Washington, al-Shar' said: Syria has frequently stressed commitment to the peace process. However, peace must be just, comprehensive, and must be built on the resolutions of international legitimacy. In the latest meeting between the Syrian and Israeli sides in Washington with U.S. sponsorship and participation, it became evident to us that the Israeli side was intransigent and tends to obstruct any progress in those talks.

The foreign minister added: Regrettably, in recent statements, some Israeli officials described matters in a manner that contradicts reality. They described Syria as the intransigent party. This is untrue. If it transpires now after the Syrian ambassador's return to Washington and contact with the U.S. peace team that there is a positive stand and new ideas, Syria will seriously view the subsequent steps which will help advance the peace process.

French Sources Cited on Talks

JN0802144295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Feb 95

[Report by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received the European Troika delegation led by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. The delegation held talks this morning with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on three important issues: First, the peace process; second, the European role in this process; and, third, the Barcelona conference.

With respect to the peace process, French sources close to the delegation said that al-Shar' reiterated Syria's known stand, which is based on full withdrawal in exchange for full peace. The sources said that Syria is fully convinced that Israel does not want peace.

As for the European role, the French sources cited al-Shar' as saying that Syria hopes Europe will play a more effective and important role in the peace process and that this role must not stop at the economic level.

On the Barcelona conference, the French sources said that al- Shar' did not reject the idea of Syria's participation in the Barcelona conference. However, he did not say yes. The French sources cited him as saying that this is a project worth considering.

The Barcelona conference to convene in the second half of this year is a European-Middle East conference that seeks to initiate political dialogue between Middle Eastern countries and Europe and has nothing to do with the multilateral talks that Syria and Lebanon continue to boycott. Al-Shar' reiterated Syria's stand on the multilateral talks to Juppe today.

Delegation Departs After Talks

JN0802212095 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning a round of talks was held between the Syrian side headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the European troika delegation headed by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. The talks were attended on the Syrian side by Ruslan 'Allush and Yusuf Shakkur, assistants to the foreign minister; and the heads of the Western Europe Department, the Economic Department, the Organizations Department, and the Media Department at the Foreign Ministry. For the European side, the talks were attended by (Von Bloyt), minister of state at the German Foreign Ministry; (Carlos Visentedorb), Spanish minister of state for EU [European Union] affairs; (Manuel Marin), deputy president of the European Commission; the head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the French Foreign Ministry; and the French ambassador in Damascus.

The talks addressed developments in the peace process, and Syrian-EU ties. The views of the two sides were in agreement on the need to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and honor the land-for-peace formula. In this regard, the French foreign minister expressed the need for complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 borders, and also from southern Lebanon in implementation of Resolution 425.

The French foreign minister underlined the importance of complying with the premise of full withdrawal in exchange for comprehensive peace.

The talks also addressed Syrian-EU ties. In this regard, the two sides agreed on the need to enhance and promote these ties in all areas. The two sides also promised to examine the possibility of upgrading these ties so that they may rise to the level of a partnership between Syria and the EU.

At 1230 today, Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received a technical team of the EC troika delegation. The meeting was attended by

Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, Minister of State for Planning Affairs Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Subay'i, and the ambassadors of EC members in Damascus. The talks addressed economic development in Syria and the accomplishments realized in the area of economic production over the past few years. The conferees also examined economic, technical, and trade cooperation between Syria and EC members, and the ways to promote and enhance it. Moreover, they discussed the bilateral cooperation ties between Syria and each EC member, and the ways to continuously promote and enhance them.

Alain Juppe, French foreign minister and head of the European troika delegation, and his wife left Damascus this evening following a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

The minister was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', his wife, the two assistants to the foreign minister, several senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the ambassadors of EC members in Damascus.

Press Views European Delegation's Visit

JN0902101895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Feb 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial entitled "The Troika Delegation and the Future of the European Role," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: A troika delegation, comprised of [delegates from] big European states, has begun a new regional tour by visiting Damascus and meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad.

As was the case with previous EU [European Union] delegations, this delegation acquainted itself with the true Syrian viewpoint about the peace process. This viewpoint is in complete harmony with both the bases of the peace process and the resolutions of international legitimacy, as well as with the UN Charter and principles.

However, the previous delegations also acquainted themselves with the facts, saw the realities, realized where the obstacles lie, and returned home without doing anything, not because of Syria or other Arab parties, but because of Israel, which closed the doors to both the European role and the international efforts in general.

Moreover, Israel prevented other parties from taking part in the solution and from establishing peace. It also singled out the Arab parties, concluded separate deals and incomplete solutions, dictated its will, and imposed its wishes on everyone in and outside the region.

AL-BA'TH continues: Regardless of the European states' hesitation and failure to do their part regarding the peace process—to such an extent that they seemed helpless—European interests in the region require that the European role should not be so weak regarding a process on which the region's future depends and regarding a party that is deliberately aborting this process and turning it into a tool in Israel's hand. With this tool, Israel can control this region's destinies and resources and makes itself as the region's unopposed first master.

AL-BA'TH continues: The European troika delegation did not have much difficulty in searching for the proof that Israel's peace, which deluded world public opinion into believing it was established through the Oslo and Wadi al-'Arabah agreements, is not real peace, but rather a puzzle that confronts a just and comprehensive peace and plants new seeds of endless future conflicts in the region. Israeli settlement activity has not ceased. Israeli occupation has not ended. The killings, destruction, and siege are very intense, and official Israeli terrorism increases everyday. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of Palestinians are in jail, and the shelling of southern Lebanon and the destruction of its villages is fiercely escalating.

Concluding, the paper says: We in Syria welcome the European role, particularly after EU-Syrian relations have improved. We demand that the European states assume their full responsibilities toward the peace process. Europe's responsibility stems from its interests, which can only be met by a just and comprehensive peace. Such a peace is the substance of the peace process and the objective set by the [U.S.] peace initiative.

Syria only demands implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy, which provide for ending the occupation and for withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH discusses the same topic. Commenting on the meeting between leader al-Asad and the European troika delegation, it says: Syria has always shown a definite interest in seizing the peace opportunity. On many occasions, Syria has asserted its full readiness for serious and sincere cooperation with any efforts by any international party to establish a firm peace that safeguards the rights, the interests, and the dignity of all parties and which removes all manifestations of occupation in the region.

The paper adds: Developments in the peace process have proved to the whole world that Syria is a party that makes honest peace proposals and does its best to achieve a real and lasting peace. Such a peace will regain regional security and stability and provide all that will help the regional peoples dispose of all the leftovers of wars and catastrophes. Meanwhile, Israel's true nature has been revealed to the whole world as a tyrannical force of occupation which only thinks of imposing its own terms on others and which only views peace as feeble partial settlements under which it can control the territories without giving anything in return.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: These Israeli positions have widened the gaps and prevented any breakthrough on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. If the Israeli position remains the same in the future, it will be difficult to show a minimum level of optimism about the peace process, which will then resemble a scrap of paper blown by the wind and subject to failure.

Al-Shar' Says Peace Possible Within 'Months'

JN0802213895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe held a news conference this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' said: Syria's conviction can be summed up as follows: If Israel is serious about arriving at a just, comprehensive peace and about achieving genuine and substantive progress on the Syrian track, then it will not need more than several months. But if Israel is not serious about this, peace will not be achieved at all, even if the talks go on for years. We hope that the other party is serious about the peace process.

Commenting, Juppe said: The EU believes that the UN Security Council resolutions, by which we mean all relevant resolutions, provide the basis of the peace process. This includes Resolution 425, which, in our view, is an important resolution which must lead to Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon and maintaining Lebanon's sovereignty over its territory. There is no alternative to peace. We have come here within the framework of the EU foreign and security policy to give our full support to advancing the peace process.

Russia's Posuvalyuk Arrives in Damascus

JN0602175395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Viktor Posuvalyuk, assistant to the Russian foreign minister, arrived in Damascus this afternoon.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Ghassan 'Allush, assistant to the foreign minister; a number of ranking Foreign Ministry officials; and the Russian ambassador in Damascus.

Meets With Al-Shar'

JN0702185895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Middle East and North Africa Department in the Russian Foreign Ministry, this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Talks dealt with developments in the region and the peace process, and bilateral relations.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Receives UN Envoy's Adviser

LD0802145895 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Hekmatyar, leader of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan, met yesterday with Charles Santos, adviser to Mahmud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN secretary general, in his office in Charasiab. During the meeting brother Hekmatyar explained in detail to the UN official the stance of the High Coordination Council on the solution of the crisis of the country, and emphasized that as a mediator Mestiri should gain and maintain the confidence of all sides, and that he should not allow moves to be made that bring about questions and criticism about the identity and goal of his mission.

Opposition Forces Said Taking Control of Takhar

LD0802173695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A news source of Afghanistan's Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan announced: The forces of the opposition to Borhanoddin Rabbani after taking full control of Konduz Province, are now moving towards Takhar Province.

Takhar Province is located in northern Afghanistan next to Konduz along Tajikistan's border. It is under the control of Ahmad Shah Ma'sud's forces, an ally of Borhanoddin Rabbani.

After several days of clashes in Konduz, the opposition forces of Afghanistan's president have taken all the regions of this province under their control.

The news sources of Rabbani's Jami'at-e Eslami in Peshwar rejected the report of an attack on Takhar Province and said that if such an attack were to take place, the defenders who are supporting Rabbani will confront it.

Bangladesh

Awami League Not To Renew Treaty With India

BK0902122995 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 30 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The president of Bangladesh Awami League, Sheikh Hasina, has said that her party will not renew the 25-year-old Friendship Treaty with India if it goes to power. She also asked the prime minister to prove her good intentions by announcing that she would also not renew the Friendship Treaty. The Awami League leader said that the prime minister is forgetting the issues relating to the Farakka Barrage and the need to secure an equitable share of the Ganges River water whenever she visits India. The prime minister is now saying that the Friendship Treaty with India is a treaty of slavery, but her foreign minister says this treaty is a friendship treaty. Ziaur Rahman [former president] described this treaty as a friendship treaty. I want to say: Why didn't Ziaur Rahman scrap this treaty if it was an accord of slavery? We have stated that this agreement was reached under special circumstances. Today, this treaty is no longer needed. After the formation of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and the SAPTA [South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement], this treaty is no more required. The Awami League leader said this while addressing a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue near Gulistan yesterday.

This rally was organized by the metropolitan unit of the Awami League to press their demands for the holding of elections under a neutral caretaker government, and to protest against the rising prices of essential commodities, the killing of workers, and the repression of Awami League leaders and workers. It was presided over by Awami League leader Reazuddin Ahmed and addressed among others by the Awami League general secretary, Zillur Rahman; Amir Hossain Amu, presidium member; Abdur Razzak, presidium member; Motia Chowdhury, an Awami League leader; Abdul Mannan, assistant publicity secretary; Mirza Sultan Raza, an Awami League leader; Advocate Kamrul Islam; Akhtarul Alam; and others. Later, the party staged a protest demonstration in the evening. It started from Bangabandhu Avenue and culminated at Bahadur Shah Park after passing through Nawabpur Road.

Sheikh Hasina said that those who forget to demand an equitable share of the Ganges River water and keep silent about the flooding of Indian goods into our country, are now saying that if the Awami League gets power it will extend the time limit of the Friendship Treaty to 50 years. It has become their habit to spread this type of lie. After her return from a visit to India, the prime minister did not reply to questions from newspersons regarding this treaty. Today, they are putting the blame on us.

Sheikh Hasina said both this parliament and the government have become illegal following the resignation of opposition MP's. This illegal government has no right to continue in power any longer. Describing the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] government as a killer of workers, students, and political leaders, she said this government has not accepted the demands of students, workers, doctors, and teachers. It has broken all pledges. This government has also broken the pledges made by it in parliament. BNP is a government which has broken all pledges. Sheikh Hasina said the BNP must give an account to the people about its corruption and explain how they have amassed so much wealth. We are demanding the formation of a caretaker government in order to ensure the security of the voters, establish their voting rights, and make the people the owner of their votes, but the BNP government is not willing to accept it. The BNP government understands everything too late.

The Awami League leader said the prime minister must resign immediately after the announcement of election date, not 30 days before the elections. She said arrangements for the holding of elections should be made after a caretaker government is formed with neutral advisory council members headed by the president. The question of the prime minister continuing in power does not arise. We want elections under a caretaker government with a view to establishing peace. The Awami League leader said that the government will be compelled to accept their demands if the movement is intensified. Where can the government go by not accepting the demands? Demanding a probe into the killing of a worker and a trial, the Awami League leader also demanded that necessary arrangements should be made for the welfare of the family of the deceased worker. She said a movement should be launched for ousting the BNP government, which has been indulging in vote rigging, vote stealing, and the killing of workers. This would help establish the voting rights of the people.

Condemning the attacks launched on her party leaders, including Motia Chowdhury and Sahara Khatun, she said the government has become bewildered and has let loose oppression and repression on opposition parties. The movement against the government will be intensified if the repression increases. The opposition leader said that she has no language to condemn the repression of women.

Zillur Rahman said the government of Khaleda Zia is a new autocratic government. This government has no respect for democracy. We demand the resignation of Khaleda Zia. She should immediately dissolve parliament and ask the president to announce fresh elections. He said this election should be held under a caretaker government. The Awami League leader said that any delay in the acceptance of their resignation letters will further muddy waters and lead the country toward a confrontation. We won't go for any elections under Khaleda Zia.

Amir Hossain Amu said no positive results can be achieved by threatening the Awami League. We have participated in movements under unfavorable conditions. Shots were fired at our party president during the elections [parliamentary by-elections] held in Dhanmondi constituency. Although the people responsible for the firing were caught and handed over to the police, they were later released.

He said the incident of a bomb hurled in front of the prime minister's car was preplanned. He said the Awami League does not want to gain power through the use of arms but with the support of the people. Protesting the killing of a worker, he said the government signed agreements with the workers [jute and textile mill workers] three times, but these were not implemented. He said Khaleda Zia will have to bow down in the face of the movement and accept the demand for the formation of a caretaker government. [passage omitted]

India

Union To Set Up International Arbitration System

BK0902022295 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 4 Feb 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi 3 February—The Union government has conceded the Japanese demand for allowing international arbitration in settling commercial disputes. The government, however, has not agreed to their plea for allowing automatic winding up of firms.

The demands were made at a meeting here on Friday [3 February] between Mr Katsuhiro Utada, leader of the visiting Keidanren delegation, and Dr Manmohan Singh.

Mr Utada said: "We raised three issues in the meeting—labour, judiciary and political situation in India."

Dr Singh, he said, assured the delegation that the Union government was proposing to set up a arbitration system in India to resolve commercial disputes. Such a system, Mr Utada said, would greatly benefit foreign investors.

Referring to the delegation's discussions with the finance minister on the controversial labour issue, Mr Utada said the finance minister also told the delegation that the government was aware of the need of amending the existing labour laws. However, serious changes are possible only when employment and economic growth were assured.

In reply to a question as to whether the consumer goods import issue was raised in the meeting with the finance minister, Mr Utada said the issue did not specifically come up. However, the finance minister assured that there was no bar on imports of consumer goods, like CTVs and audio systems. Mr Utada said he got the impression that a bar on imports of consumer goods in India was difficult to justify because of the huge demand for these goods.

Earlier speaking to THE ECONOMIC TIMES, Mr Utada said that to promote Japanese investment in India, the government should create a sound infrastructural framework and make suitable changes in the existing taxation and financial policies and legal legislations.

"Import tariff on capital goods should be done away with, which would facilitate exports," Mr Utada said. The Japanese delegation is, however, not presenting any wish list as was done during the previous Japanese business missions, he added.

Japanese companies in India have faced problems with the Exit policy and, therefore, Japanese industry would like to have a clear picture of the set up in India, Mr Utada said. He is meeting the labour minister, Mr P A Sangma, to apprise him of the apprehensions regarding Exit policy and to find his perceptions on it.

Admitting that there were a diversity of views among his delegation members on the reforms process and India as an investment decision, Mr Utada said that this was because they were from various sectors of industry and viewed India from their respective angles.

Mr Utada said that the delegation is yet to arrive at a consensus as to what message they would give to fellow businessmen and the government back home. He, however, was happy with the progress of reforms and described it as "slow but steady".

Article Urges Government To Lower Inflation

BK0802092195 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 7 Feb 95 p 6

[Article by Rakesh Singh: "Lest India Should Follow the Mexican Way"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico was being heralded as the beacon of economic success just a few months ago. After the North American Free Trade Treaty our policy makers were mentioning Mexico as an ideal example for others to follow. But quite recently our ex-finance secretary and the director of the International Monetary Fund, Mr. Geetakrishnan, sent a very important letter to our present secretary of economic affairs, Mr. Monteksingh Ahluwalia, to express his apprehensions regarding our new economic policy. Although Mr Monteksingh held a news conference to highlight the vast differences between Indian economic policies and that of Mexico and to assure the nation that we are not following the Mexican way since our economic reforms are taking us in the right direction, the vital question remains: Is our economic policy really following the right path?

It is necessary to first make a comparative study of Indian and Mexican economic policies and their resultant achievements. Mexico had a 20 billion dollar strong foreign currency reserve like we have, but their economy suddenly collapsed. A few months ago, foreign institutionalized investors made huge investments in Mexico in the hope of getting quick returns for their investment. What actually happened was totally contrary to their expectations. Due to the sudden weakening of the Mexican economy and the raise in U.S. interest rates, capital investors felt it prudent to invest in the United States rather than risk their money in the Mexican economy. This led to as quick a withdrawal of foreign capital as it was first invested. This caused the Mexican economy to follow a path opposite of overall development. This is exactly what is happening in India as well. During past two years, Indian foreign currency reserves quickly have swollen. Our coffers, which were almost empty just two years ago, are now brimming with 21 billion dollars in reserves. But it is important to notice at this juncture that the Bombay Stock Market index is still plummeting. Many foreign institutionalized investors have sold their shares in huge quantities, but some are still trapped in the financial whirlpool. In fact, it is this similarity which appears to be taking Indian development the way of Mexico. But some hyperoptimistic persons do not agree with this analysis and point to a very significant difference between the economic conditions of the two countries. They believe that unlike the Mexican exchange rate, the Indian exchange rate is still not totally convertible. The money in capital accounts still have not been made convertible.

As a matter of fact, if we delve deep and study the complexities that afflict the Mexican economy, we will find that the policies of the international financial bodies—the IMF and the World Bank—played a big role in the economic debacle of Mexico. Mexico is now heading towards economic disaster as a result of the harmful effect of the policies of globalization. There are many reasons for this. First, priority was given to foreign investment over portfolio investment. The second important reason was government's wasteful expenditure reached its peak during the seventh decade, which led to a reduction in capital budget expenditure during the eighth decade. The economy was bound to be adversely affected since the capital budget was linked to constructive or productive investment. The third reason was the Mexican Government was duped by the offers of the World Bank and the IMF and adopted the path of recklessly liberalizing its import policy. The result was multinational corporations establishing their supremacy in the consumer sector, which led to the untimely death of small and cottage industries due to reductions in tariff rates. The fourth reason was to increase exports to ensure success in economic reforms and to solve the balance of payment (BOP) problem. Due to reckless devaluation, however, exports could not grow nor could the BOP problem be solved. On the contrary, growing inflation had an adverse effect on people's income, development, and capital; in short, it affected the entire economy, which caused foreign investors to flee with their capital.

The finance minister and the Reserve Bank of India governor believe that India's economic condition is quite different from that of Mexico. First of all, our economy is intrinsically quite sound in comparison to the Mexican economy. The government has succeeded in checking the rate of inflation. Foreign direct investors are itching to come to India, which was apparent in the agreements signed by the businessmen accompanying the U.S. secretary of commerce, Mr. Brown. They signed with Indian authorities investment agreements worth $7 billion last week. Mr. Manmohan Singh, while defending his policies as correct, says: "We are not going to allow reckless devaluation, total convertibility of the rupee, and unbridled imports in the consumer sector as Mexico did. Our economic reforms have eminently succeeded in providing a firm economic base for the country and we are not following the Mexican way, but the right way to development." But the question is: Are we really on the way to development? Can we say we are on a different path than the one taken by Mexico by not making the rupee fully convertible and by not allowing multinational corporations to enter the consumer sector?

For last four years, at the instigation of the World Bank and the IMF, efforts have been made to link the Indian economy with the world economy. Now those who advocated "Go the Mexican Way" are totally quiet. The self-same Mexico, which just a couple of months ago was heralded as the model of constructive reforms, has now been thrown on the path of nondevelopment by their new economic policy. Admittedly like Mexico we did not make our rupee fully convertible nor did we open our market for consumer goods, but a comparative study points out that we, to some extent, are committing the same mistakes Mexico did.

A close study of the statistics received from the World Bank reveals that during 1993 total direct foreign investment was only $227 million where as foreign institutionalized investment was at $184 billion. The ratio between direct foreign investment and institutionalized investment is one is to seven, which is much less than it is in China. During 1993, direct investment in China was at $26 billion which is a hundred times more than what it was in India. There, foreign institutionalized investment was only $2.27 billion. Not only this, like Mexico, India also seems to be heading for the "debt-trap." It is India's turn after Brazil and Mexico. Our total foreign loans are around $92 billion, which is more than our GDP. More and more loans are being taken to evade the debt-trap now. Last year, foreign financial assistance rendered to India was around $2 billion which was mostly used to liquidate our debts rather than to enhance our production capacity. The analysis of external commercial loans indicates that the loan repayment is $640 million more than the total equitable distribution. It means that we are taking loans quite recklessly and foreign indebtedness is not letting us escape. Moreover, the loans taken under the IMF's FCNR [expansion unknown] scheme is not deemed to be a debt by our government. On the other hand, it deems it as an inherent right by being a member of the IMF. In a way, our foreign currency reserves are also a sort of debt against us.

As far as foreign investment is concerned, we, like Mexico, are out to attract it at any cost. In energy and telecommunication sectors, like Mexico, we have granted many exemptions and relief to foreign investors that are not available for our domestic industries. The guarantee has been given to foreign investors for a high profit rate and, despite these measures even in sanctioned projects, only 22 percent foreign investment could be achieved. This is certainly an ominous indication because despite the average profit rate being 16.4 percent in India, we have received much less foreign investment than China, where the profit rate is only 1.15 percent. In addition, apart from the energy and telecommunication sectors, we are receiving foreign investment only in industries producing potato chips, cereals and corn flakes, and screwdrivers. Domestic companies have to face stiff competition from multinational corporations due to the substantial reduction in excise and custom duties. Moreover no special help has been given to small-scale industries to help them obtain required technology and resources. Since they cannot raise money from financial markets, small village industries and companies dealing with textiles, paper, steel, engineering, and chemical goods are suffering the adverse effect of such policies.

Computer, small cement, plants, ready-made garments, leather products, rubber products, etc. are also severely suffering the consequences of our new economic policy according to a study done by Sarthi Acharya and Teeran Vacharya. This economic policy will even have an adverse effect on exports. With the drastic reduction in job opportunities, our indigenous industries will die a very untimely death. Our small scale units are on the verge of extinction due to the dearth of technology and entrepreneurship. The condition of our big industries is not much different. An ordinary Indian normally does not strive to improve his administrative, technical, and marketing capacities since his basic aim invariably is to earn a quick profit. This is the secret behind the tie-ups between Parle and Coca-Cola, Godrej and Procter-Gamble, Tomco and Hindustan Lever. Despite being successful Indian companies, Parle and Godrej surrendered tamely before the multinational corporations. This was bound to happen since our government is handing over a large number of facilities to the multinational corporations to attract foreign investment, which is not available to indigenous companies.

The BOP problem, external debts, and the wrong foreign capital investment policy could trap us in a vicious circle of devaluation and inflation. The biggest similarity between the Indian and Mexican economies has been the high rate of inflation. Due to the high inflation rate in Mexico and a much lower inflation rate in the United States, exported goods continued to be more expensive, which made trade conditions quite favorable for the United States. That was why foreign capital investors began to flee Mexico. Then the Mexican Government thought of devaluing its currency to solve the problem. The old Indian saying "Whom God Would Destroy, He Makes Him Mad First" could not have been a better example of this Mexican folly.

There is no doubt that India's present inflation rate of 10.6 percent is much less than Mexico's 22 percent. The Mexican inflation rate is determined on a very different economic basis than ours. While Mexico can endure even a 150 percent price rise, a mere 17 percent price rise can cause political destabilization in India. Hence even this rate of inflation can prove very deadly to our economic structure. According to a Reserve Bank of India report, the rate of inflation is galloping unchecked to the repeated rise in support for cereal prices. During 1993-94, the normal price levels for sugar, edible oils, cotton clothes, and electricity have witnessed an upward trend. Moreover, the Reserve Bank of India had to buy foreign currency in large quantities to check the rupee exchange rate in the international market, which increased due to the stupendous growth in portfolio investment. The result is a more than 20 percent rise in the money supply, which significantly contributed to the rising rate of inflation.

If we delve deeply into the reasons East Asian countries are economically successful, we would find behind the economic wonder a capable local industrial base, technical competence and self sufficiency, rural development, and governments willing to intervene at very timely intervals. These governments did not alter their policies overnight in the name of privatization, liberalization, and free trade. Lest India should follow the Mexican way of nondevelopment, we must strive hard to reduce the rate of inflation, to improve the standards of life, and to bridge the chasm of widening disparities in our society.

Indigenously Developed LCA Engine Fails To Fit

BK0802142695 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 4 Feb 95 pp 1, 9

[Report by Avinash Singh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Feb. 3—Ministry of Defence (MoD) mandarins in the South Block are faced with a hard option. Should they allow the Bangalore-based Aeronautics Development Agency (ADA) to seek foreign engines for first two prototypes of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) or let the project already over ten-years behind schedule get delayed further?

They have reasons to worry be cause of the failure of the indigenously developed Kaveri engine to match with the frame of the aircraft, the mock-up of which was first displayed at the December 1993 international air show at Yelehanka near Bangalore.

ADA managers have conveyed the mismatch to the Scientific Advisor to the Defence Ministry, Prof. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, whose initial parleys with the Government for a short-term foreign collaboration have drawn a blank.

It is believed that the matter regarding import of General Electric F-404 engines to fly the first two prototypes is being taken up again to keep the jinxed project going. Whatever be the decision of the Government the ambitious project, for which schedules have been revised repeatedly, is bound to get delayed again.

"Well, a snag is there. But nothing too big. Matching of various sophisticated assemblies does take time," a senior scientist at the ADA told THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, in Bangalore early this week. The scientist hoped that it may take anything between eight months to a year to sort out the mismatch. But he did not rule out the possibility of more time being spent on the vexed technical riddle.

Sources close to Dr Kota Harinarayan, the project director for LCA, admitted that the Government was not keen on importing engines for the prototype and would like them to develop both the engine and the frame indigenously.

"We are for short-term collaboration because it may enable the scientists working on the engine as well a frame some more time to perfect their products. The import would mean that the project would not come to a standstill," the source added.

The ADA functionaries had no answer to the MoD query—won't there be any delay in matching the F-404 engines with the frame? And moreover how could orders for such sensitive matters be placed over night?

"Let them first concede that they cannot deliver the goods, we would then think in terms of foreign collaboration. Since we are looking for someone to supply avionics, we would not mind, in that case, going in for a tie-up for the whole project," an MoD official commented.

The Kaveri engine for the LCA has been designed by the Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) Bangalore. Engineers there are of the viewpoint that if the first two 'technology demonstrators' could be flown on imported machines, they may utilise the breathing time to upgrade Kaveri to meet the standards of General Electric engines.

To the discerning eye, it is a candid admission that the GTRE scientists are not too satisfied with what they have come up with thus far. This should certainly put a damper on the various offers from the aircraft manufacturers the world over to set up production facilities worth Rs 20,000 crore once the prototype was perfected.

Under the revised schedule projected in early 1994, the first flight of the technology demonstrator was to be sometime in 1996. The second prototype signalling production was to be by the year 2000 with final induction in to the Air Force latest by 2003. None of these deadlines will be met in the wake of the latest development.

A senior Air Force official blamed the "continued reliance on one source" being responsible for the mess. It is time that the Government started looking at the options before it to sustain the 51-squadron force in its effective combat role in the next century.

The official was quite sore about the unnecessary delay being caused by the politico-military factor into buying of the Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) and red-tapism resulting in non-realisation of the dream of Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH). He described the LCA as being a "jinxed venture that was a nonstarter from day one."

Scientists at the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), controlling ADA and GTRE besides 50 other research organisations, when contacted, quipped, "Indian technocrats are among the best in the world. Need is to do away with the official hurdles on development programmes. Let the bureaucracy's grip on R and

D projects be loosened and you will start getting results. [no end quotation marks as published]

Kashmir President's Rule Extended Until 17 Jul

BK0802160195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Cabinet today approved the extension of president's rule in Jammu and Kashmir until the 17th of July this year. The present term of the president's rule in the state ends on the second of next month. A formal resolution on the issue is to be moved in parliament during the first two days of the session beginning next Monday [13 February].

Delhi Said 'Major' Center for Wildlife Smuggling

BK0802142895 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 4 Feb 95 p 2

[Report by Shailendra Kumar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi—Delhi has emerged as a major transit centre for smuggling in wildlife products over the years. The evidence which points to this new-found status of Delhi comes from the series of police seizures of faunal products.

An index of the gravity of the problem is the number of seizures and the quantum of smuggled wildlife products. In the last four years, the Delhi Police has made 25 big seizures recovering 153 leopard skins, 39 tiger skins, 200 kg of tiger bones, 796 desert fox, 250 desert cat and 1,484 snake skins.

In January this year alone, there were two major seizures. Still, they do not reflect the overall magnitude of the problem since a large number of cases go undetected . Agrees the DCP [Delhi Constabulary of Police] (Crime), Mr Qamar Ahmed, who last week seized 1,018 skins of the fast-disappearing desert fox and desert cat, "Delhi has indeed become a major collection centre of smuggled wildlife products because of two reasons. Its commercial status and proximity to major national, parks like Corbett, Ranthambhore and Sariska."

The report submitted last year to the Ministry of Environment and Forest [MEF] by the Subramanian Committee, set up to suggest measures to curb illegal trade in wildlife products, says that because of the dwindling wildlife species in South-East Asian countries, pressure on Indian wildlife has increased manifold.

India seems to be paying for its conservation successes of 70's and 80's. Till a few years back, China, Korea and Taiwan were able to meet the demand for tiger bones with tigers of Siberia, China and South-East Asia.

Now with the significant fall in the tiger population in these areas the onslaught of the trade has turned towards India.

The Subramanian panel report reveals that in 1993, an undercover investigator was offered an order of 1,000 kgs of tiger bones, the product of 70 to 80 tigers within two months.

In the swoop that followed 400 kgs of tiger bones were seized within two days. The national seizure of tiger bones in 1993 was of 667 kgs.

Demand for Rhino heads is the greatest threat to its existence. During 1992, the Rhino toll from poaching was one per week, and in early 1993, it rose to 1.8 Rhino per week, the report says.

There are also reports of bear paws being smuggled to China where they are used in gourmet cuisine. The MEF has also got information about frogs' legs being smuggled to Bangladesh and then exported to Western countries.

What has fuelled the sudden spurt in the wildlife trade, is the astronomical prices the wildlife products get. The price of a single Rhino horn in Assam ranges between Rs 4 to 5 lakhs. The international price of musk is estimated to be $45,000 per kg.

A senior Environment Ministry official says that the illegal trade in flora and fauna is next in size only to the trade in narcotics, and may equal that in armaments.

The Subramanian panel report says that till a few years ago, the monetary value of the-international trade in wildlife was placed at $6 billion. But in recent years, the figure has shot up to $20 billion.

It is believed that India's share in the global trade has significantly gone up but a concrete figure has not been worked out as yet.

Mr Ashok Kumar who was the secretary-member of the Subramanian panel says that unfortunately, the ban on trade in wildlife products did not coincide with an equally rigorous enforcement effort and intelligence gathering mechanism in the country.

To curb the growing menace of the wildlife trade, the report has recommended a number of measures like a central data bank on wildlife offences, special teams of armed personnel and frequent raids on clandestine selling points.

"The Ministry has been so tardy in implementing the measures suggested by the experts that the problem has further aggravated," says Mr Ashok Kumar.

Iran

U.S. Middle East Plans Said 'Vulnerable, Futile'

NC0902080795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 9 Feb 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the conference involving the U.S. secretary of commerce and the commerce ministers of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and the Gaza-Jericho Self-Rule Authority, it was announced that the negotiating sides have accepted that they will strive to create a free regional market.

The final communique of the Taba conference highlights the need to remove trade restrictions and to increase regional economic cooperation. On this basis, the Arab countries participating in the Taba conference accepted the removal of all trade obstacles, most notably, lifting years of sanctions on Israel.

The Taba economic conference, which was attended by the U.S. secretary of commerce, is a link in the chain of the Middle East compromise process, which America is trying to quickly push toward its final objective—absorbing the Zionist regime in the Middle East region. Under the label of a new Middle East, America is trying to link the commercial and economic interests of the Arab countries with the Zionist regime and, by creating new conditions, to force them to accept Israel and thus make the process of compromise irreversible.

In view of its commercial and economic potential, the Zionist regime is expected to expand its domination over the region so that it can achieve those objectives it could not achieve through war and territorial expansionism by expanding trade relations and economic domination. This U.S. plan is based on the assumption that expanding trade and economic relations along with creating mutual ties and interests will inevitably make the regional countries accept Israeli domination.

On this basis and under the current conditions, with all the efforts to bring the compromise process out of its deadlock, the Zionist regime has gained the Arabs' agreement to lift the sanctions on Tel Aviv in exchange for accepting negotiations for elections in the Gaza-Jericho Self-Rule Authority. Although this concession by the Arab compromisers helps America and Israel take yet another step toward their objectives, the possibility of fulfilling the objectives pursued by lifting the trade restrictions and the Israeli sanctions is remote, since American and Israeli plans in the Middle East cannot find favorable grounds to come to fruition.

Political observers believe that expanding trade and economic relations can lead to extensive political relations and end friction only when the sides involved offer favorable political, economic, and social grounds to cultivate such relations. In Israel's relations with regional countries, although in the political-economic area the compromising Arab heads have accepted expanding relations with Israel, political groups and public opinion oppose ties. From the cultural-social aspect, the conditions in the Middle East exclude the possibility of absorbing Israel. This is why political observers consider the American plan to impose Israel on the region, with all the steps that have been taken toward this end, to be vulnerable and futile.

Commentary Views U.S. Intercept of Iraqi Ship

LD0702135495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 7 Feb 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the continuation of the U.S. illegal presence [in the Persian Gulf] as well as the unconventional measures taken by the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, the ship "Splendor Gulf", carrying 2,100 [metric] tonnes of dates to India, was intercepted by U.S. ships within 25 km distance of Kuwait and has docked in the port of Umm Al-Quwayn.

The U.S. claims that the ship was moving from Iraq in the direction of India, a measure which violates the economic sanctions and the UN resolution against Iraq. The Indian Embassy has, however, denied the claim and the crew has presented documents pointing to the fact that the ship had been loaded in one of the other ports of the Persian Gulf.

U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf, in line with the U.S. hegemonic policies and flaring of tension along the strategic waterway of the Persian Gulf, have adopted a policy of intimidation and extortion in the region. Such a measure will lead to a blatant violation of UN regulations and intervention in the affairs of other countries. It will also pose a threat to the international trade security.

Iran's representative to the UN, in a note presented last week, has protested to the tension-fermenting acts of the U.S. military ships in the Persian Gulf region. He also described such policies as a blatant violation of UN regulations and as a threat to the sovereignty of regional countries. It seems that such measures taken by the US will not only fan the flame of tension in the region but will also deal a lethal blow to the international trade security whose aftermath will be nothing but piracy in the expansion of insecurity in international waters.

Beyond doubt, the policy adopted by America will not only not fall short of being accepted amongst international circles, but will also backfire on the US itself.

The interception of ships suspected of having violated the law as well as the UN resolutions should take place within the framework of the UN mandate and under the supervision of this organization. This is why the US, overlooking such regulations, takes any arbitrary measure to secure its imperialistic interests.

ROK Envoy: 'Normalize Relations With Iraq'

SK0902061095 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 8 Feb 95 p 6

[Interview with Iranian Ambassador to the ROK, Zabihollah Now-Forsati, by reporter Yi Chol-ho on 7 February—place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Zabihollah Now-Forsati, the Iranian ambassador to the ROK, revealed on 7 February that if Iraq releases the 5,000 prisoners of war detained in Iraq and suspends assistance to anti-Iranian Government guerrillas, then Iran is willing to normalize relations with Iraq.

Ambassador Zabihollah revealed this in a CHUNGANG ILBO interview marking the 15th anniversary of Iran's revolution, and said: "ROK-Iran relations will not be affected by Iran-U.S. relations, and will continuously expand." Contents of the interview follow:

[Yi Chol-ho] Recently, suspicions have been on the rise regarding Iran's nuclear development.

[Ambassador Now-Forsati] This is only a strategy by Israel, which is known to possess nuclear weapons despite its nonmembership in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], to divert international attention elsewhere with the approach of an extension of the NPT right around the corner. Restoration work on the Bushehr atomic power plant began in order not to abandon the 7 billion dollar project that first saw investments into it in the mid seventies.

Iran will continue to construct the Bushehr atomic power plant, and as a member nation of the NPT, will sincerely implement the duty of receiving international inspection.

[Yi] What is the rate of Iran's economic recovery?

[Now-Forsati] It is recovering faster than expected. During the first Five-Year Economic Development Plan which started in 1988, annual economic growth was an average 7.7 percent. Privatization of state-run enterprises is also being carried out extensively.

Dependency on crude oil exports has been reduced. Last year, non-oil exports were increased to $5 billion, and this includes steel exports amounting to $1 billion.

[Yi] What are the prospects for expanding trade with the ROK?

[Now-Forsati] I recall that ROK businesses firmly safeguarded their work place during the dangerous situation the eight-year war with Iraq. Taerim Industry, Daewoo, Hyundai, Sunkyong, and Kia are among the ROK firms participating in the post-war restoration work. As Iran is one of the largest markets in the Middle East and the gateway to Central Asia, the prospects for future expansion of ROK business in Iran are bright.

Joint Cabinet-Majles Session Reported

NC0702093195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A joint cabinet and Majles session was held last night in the presence of the president and the Majles speaker. Thanking the president for inviting the Majles deputies, the Majles speaker said that exchanges of views and cooperation between the people's deputies in the Majles and the cabinet are extremely effective in coordinating and advancing the Islamic system's policies.

The heads of the Majles commissions for planning and budget, commerce, industries, and economy and finance stated their views on the country's economic and commercial issues. The heads of the commissions lauded the increase in the country's export of non-oil goods, and expressed their support for encouraging the export of these goods in the Second Development Plan as well as for the government's program in the fight against high prices and in state punishments. They raised some points about the country's exchange and economic policies. The heads of the commissions also reported on the Majles deliberations on the state budget bill and expressed their satisfaction with the implementation of the government's development programs to end deprivation in the various parts of the country.

The report also states that during the session, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the Majles deputies for their attendance and referred to the government's macroeconomic policies. He stated: Despite the $1 trillion worth of damage inflicted on Iran during the imposed war and in view of the deprivations which it inherited from the era of the despotic monarchy, the government has been able not only to compensate for the losses incurred during the Sacred Defense, but also to gradually overcome the many political and economic problems of the country and to achieve great progress.

Emphasizing the government's decision to fight goods smuggling and to ensure the foreign exchange needed by production units, the president said: Speeding up the fulfillment of the Islamic system's objectives calls for national determination. The government's foreign exchange policies are aimed at strengthening the country's production.

Listing the steps taken by the government to fight high prices, especially after implementing the price control plan, the president said: The policy of fighting high prices is a stable, lasting, and decisive policy. Although some profiteers are still resorting to specific ploys in a bid to resist the plan, their resistance is only temporary and they have no alternative but to surrender to the government and to the nation.

The president said that establishing the Refah Chain Stores is a step aimed at modernizing the traditional distribution system. He said that the people's extensive support in purchasing the Refah Company's stocks shows their support for the government's plan for market regulation. He added: The private sector can also participate in creation of such chain stores. The president stated: In the near future, the first of the Refah Chain Stores will become operational and other super stores will gradually take part in this network as well.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani then listed the government's major infrastructural plans throughout the country, which will be the strong backbone of the country's independence and future self-sufficiency in raw materials, basic goods, and the people's daily requirements. He stated: The people of Iran understand very well the value of services and of the efforts by the government officials serving them. The extensive and zealous participation of the people in the various aspects of the Islamic revolution shows that the people understand the value of these services and efforts.

Referring to the economic situation of the regional countries, the president said: In comparison with regional countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran is in a favorable economic situation. He called on the mass media, publicity centers, and the press to give more information to the people.

Addressing the Majles deputies, the president stated: You see the government's services and development plans throughout the country. You can use the Majles as a platform to inform the public of these plans and increase people's awareness of the importance and the role of such plans in the country's independence and future self-sufficiency.

In conclusion, the president thanked the Majles for its support for the government's programs.

Deputy Foreign Minister Appointed

LD0802215395 Tehran IRNA in English 2121 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 9, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Wednesday [8 February] named Mostafa Morsali as his deputy in charge of legal, consular and parliamentary (Majlis) affairs.

Before his new appointment, Morsali served as director general of the South and Southeast Asian Affairs Department of the Foreign Ministry.

Earlier, he had variously served as a member of parliament in its third, member of the Majlis foreign policy commission, personal representative of the leader at Sharif Polytechnical University, and advisor to the foreign minister.

Morsali succeeds Manuchehr Mottaki who was recently named as the Iranian ambassador to Japan.

Khamene'i's Friday Prayer Sermons Discussed

NC0902115195 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 5 Feb 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Leader's Sermons Expose Machinations of the U.S. and Britain"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Last Friday [3 February], the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, led the Friday Prayer at the campus of University of Tehran. In his preprayer sermons, delivered to a huge audience including the people of Tehran and the officials of the government, the leader provided an in-depth analysis of what has happened since the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

In his sermons, he dealt with the Islamic movement and the fight for independence, saying "the people of Iran in 1979, were able to cut the undue privileges of the U.S. and Britain, privileges which included sucking up the oil which both of these world-devouring powers need. Indeed, they need the oil as much as they need water. And they got the oil at a price cheaper than the price of water."

The leader went on to say that, if at the turn of century anyone even discussed to putting a stop to such undue privileges, he would have to either recant or be sent to exile or prison or face execution. The leader's words were repeatedly interrupted by the audience who chanted in agreement. Gradually, a question began forming in the minds of the worshipers gathered at University of Tehran: How will these two disgruntled countries take their "revenge"?

Ayatollah Khamene'i said that these two countries take their revenge by starting a campaign of disinformation against Iran. It seems that the Leader's remarks to this point would have led anyone to reach the same conclusion: That the only way for the U.S. and Britain to regain their undue privileges would be through toppling the system which has emerged out of this Islamic movement.

At the moment numerous journals, radio stations and television networks are disseminating anti-Iranian propaganda. How much does it cost to run these operations? What do they gain by incurring such astronomical costs? What do they stand to gain by analyzing the situation in someone else's country at such a high cost?

Considering that all of the anti-Iranian media have one thing in common, the pessimistic viewpoint about the situation in Iran, could any one of them claim that no other country in the world has similar or worse problems than the ones reportedly faced by Iran?

Could we say that the reports are objective? Do reports corroborate eyewitness accounts?

If someone could answer the above questions with a clean conscience, then his answers would be the same as those of the Iranian nation to all the reports about the so-called impending doom in the Iranian economy or about other extrapolations and allegations.

Essentially, one should keep in mind that the revolutionary people of Iran have learned from the late Imam Khomeyni that "Whenever you see foreigners attacking something or some person in your country, you must realize that person or thing is beneficial for your country, and whenever they praise something, you should consider that an ultimatum that (you might be) deviating from the line of revolution."

Government To Curb Inflation by Cutting Money Flow

LD0702214595 Tehran IRNA in English 2102 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—Government is to implement giant projects in order to check price hikes through a decrease in volume of liquidity, Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati [-Jahromi] announced in an exclusive interview with the Persian daily "ETTELA'AT" appeared here on Tuesday *[7 February]*.

Besharati considered a liquidity, totalling rls. [rials] 5,000 billion, as being among factors effective in price hikes and expressed hope that implementation of projects by certain organizations and ministries would decline liquidity and price hikes.

He said that in the initial phase government is to diminish liquidity by rls. 70 billion through implementation of a project to expand Martyr Nawab Highway.

In the second and third phases of the project, he added, rls. 20 billion more would be collected.

The Iranian official said that the ongoing inflation resulted by wrong policies, adopted by the former monarchial regime, by the Iraqi imposed war (1980-88), implementation of giant infrastructural projects and a decline in oil price at the international markets.

He continued that Iran was in a more favourable status than that of its neighbors and said 93 Turkish liras in 1981 equalled to one dollar, while the figure for each U.S. dollar now stands at 48,000 liras.

Setting more examples, he added, in Gorbachev's era each dollar was equal to one rouble, whereas each dollar is traded at present at 28,000 roubles in the Yeltsin's era.

Besharati hoped for 20 million tons of agriculture output inside the country and said a yield of 11 million tons for wheat has made the country self-sufficient in terms of the agricultural production.

He expressed hope that Iran would be turned into a wheat exporting country in the Second Five-Year Economic Development Plan (1995-2000).

Furthermore, Besharati said rls. 700 up to 10 billion had been earmarked for turning about 50 villages into districts and 25 districts into towns.

So far, he added, over 40 villages have been turned into districts and about 30 districts into towns.

He concluded that barricades had been built in 285 kilometers of bordering regions with Afghanistan and 85 kilometers of regions bordering Pakistan to confront drug smugglers and decrease number of addicts.

He added that number of addicts had been cut by one eighth compared to the same figure in first years after the triumph of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Tax Revenues Show Big Increase

LD0702213095 Tehran IRNA in English 2011 GMT 7 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—The revenue of direct tax in Iran in the first nine months of the current year amounts to 2846.64 billion rls. showing an increase of 43 percent compared to the same period in last year.

According to the Iranian Ministry of Economy and Finance the amount of indirect tax collection, with an increase of 19 percent in the same period, reaches 1169.79 billion rls.

The ministry added the country's total direct and indirect tax revenue adds up to 4016.42 billion rls. showing 35 percent rise in the above-mentioned time.

Complaints to Newspaper Reflect Economic, Social Problems (No. 5)

[FBIS Media Note] The Tehran daily SALAM carries a regular column, "Hello, SALAM," based on the purported telephoned-in complaints and remarks of ordinary Iranian citizens. The following series of dialogues between callers and the paper are excerpted from December's editions. The complaints may sometimes appear cryptic in content to readers unfamiliar with Iranian society, but they provide a unique window into the state of public opinion in Iran. These particular complaints deal with individual freedom, conduct becoming to Majles representatives, the high cost of living as well as shortages, the completion of the Bushehr Power Plant, the banning of satellite equipment, the hejab, the concept of the marja'iyat, effective management and divorce laws.

Each subject in the column samples published below is translated in full, except for those few that have portions summarized for the sake of clarity. "Caller" material which strays from the central subject is not translated.

ON FREEDOM, SATELLITE DISHES

[Caller] I am sure that you will not publish this, but you should know that I and those like me are familiar with Islamic observances, which instruct us to "listen to all words and then decide on the best course of action, "that is, give people the freedom to decide. But this is not true in ourcountry. People take advantage of the most scientifically advanced techniques, whether satellite dishes or other means, in Islamic and non-Islamic countries to move their country forward. But it is not so in our country. In Iran, they tell you what to eat and what not to eat, what to watch and what not to watch, who to vote for and who not to vote for.

[SALAM] From the beginning we have opposed the use of force in dealing with satellite dishes since the failure of that method is predictable. But parents should not underestimate the threat to our national identity. All of us have to be vigilant about Iranian-Islamic culture and its purity. All of us have to look for a remedy.

Regarding do's and don'ts: First of all, in some Islamic countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Pakistan, the governments are committed to religious practices and deal with the accused decisively. Of course, other Islamic countries such as the Iran of the Shah's time, not only were not committed to religious practices, it even defied them.

As for elections and who to elect and not elect, it is not importantwhat those in power want, what is important is what the people themselves want. No power should be imposed on anyone. If people participate actively and persistently, they can change for the better a political environment that features power and pressure. It goes without saying that propaganda will have an effect on people's votes. Unfortunately, sometimes opportunities that should be available to everyone are disproportionally distributed, with undesirable results. Only sound human organizations will be able to confront these discrepancies. [20 Dec pp 3, 2]

[Caller] You talk of freedom in your newspaper as if we enjoy complete freedom. A while ago, someone who had gotten in touch with you, said: "Our difficulty is not Tide or sugar, our major problem is lack of freedom." How many marches have taken place criticizing or objecting to the policies of the government since the revolution? How many have taken place objecting to or criticizing individuals? How many have even been allowed to take place? Of course, no protests about government policies appear in the newspapers either.

[SALAM] Before answering this reader, we need to change this absolutist mentality. We want to correct this extreme pessimism and state that there is freedom in answering this reader who says there is none. We also need to correct any absolute optimism and state that total freedom does not exist. In numerous cases unfair limitations are placed even on the press and they are based on personal whim, not legal opinions. There are many problems where discussion could lead to social growth. However, an atmosphere has been created that renders discussions practically impossible. Unfortunately, willingly or unwillingly, our press has accepted the limitations placed on it.

As for marches, it is necessary to note that political and official organizations need to be created before marches and political gatherings can take place. Otherwise, unfocused and self-promoting marches accomplish nothing. If such political organizations are formed and then they decide to march and are stopped, then this reader's judgments are correct. For example, the Islamic Association of Teachers [Jaftar-e tahkim-e vahdat] decided to conduct a march on the 4th of November, the national day of Resistance to Arrogance. The Interior Ministry opposed it for no reason at all. Objections poured in. One esteemed Majles deputy questioned the interior minister. The interior minister announced in the Majles that during his ministerial tenure, no marches would be allowed. Since this statement was contrary to law, he finally surrendered to the wishes of the students. These functions are now carried out by obtaining an authorization. [22 Dec p 2]

ON THE CONDUCT OF MAJLES REPRESENTATIVES

[Caller] Unfortunately the Islamic Consultative Majles has become like a classroom. The deputies get up, pace back and forth, and talk to one another. Mr. Nateq-Nuri, like a teacher, tells them to sit down, not talk, or be quiet. The deputies should be a little more judicious.

[SALAM] This reader's reminder is well advised but problems such as these are normal and have always existed since the first Majles. However, the honorable representatives must be more discreet as people's representatives, if for no other reason than the fact that the public is watching them. [22 Dec p 3]

ON FREEDOM FOR POLITICAL PARTIES

[Caller] Is not the executive power responsible for carrying out the entire constitution? Why does the regime curtail the activities of political parties and prevent people from playing a role in deciding their own fate? Maybe they think that the regime will be weakened if people form political parties and make their own decisions. It is definitely not so. Why, after 15 years, are people still not given the right to become politically active?

[SALAM] We have written before that the government is not responsible for organizing political parties. They have to be organized by people and unofficial political groups. They can begin by obtaining authorization. The regime cannot stop this. If you think that the appropriate atmosphere for the formation of political parties does not exist, it could be created. Again, the only way is to get involved and confront this atmosphere. [27 Dec p 3]

ON THE HIGH COST OF LIVING, SHORTAGES

[Caller] If gasoline is supposed to go up in cost in the new year, why have taxis and transportation vehicles raised fares already? God help us in the new year. The fare from Vanak Square to Tadjrish has risen from 30 to 40 tumans. Are there no rules and regulations? [20 Dec p 3]

[Caller] I am 24 years old and my salary is 12,000 tumans a month. I have estimated that if I want to get married and start a family, paying nothing for the marriage ceremony, transportation or health care and furthermore, consume only bread and cheese morning, noon and night, this 12,000 tumans would not be sufficient. What do the officials have to say to me and those like me? [20 Dec p 3]

[Caller] In 1991-1992, to compensate for inflation, retirees' and pensioners' monthly salaries were increased by 20 percent, but this cost of living adjustment was forgotten in subsequent years. A salary ceiling was set.

Now, one could ask, have our officials been able to set a ceiling on inflation? Since inflation has been over 20 percent in recent years, officials should take some action about a 20 percent increase in salaries. [20 Dec p 3]

[Caller] Is not the Vahed Company [the bus company] under government supervision? Does it increase prices on its own or does it do so with official permission? In the past, anytime they wanted to increase anything, the Majles had to approve it. Now, anyone charges anything he wants for goods and services.

[SALAM] In recent years, companies, factories and even some official and unofficial ministries were told to make up their budget shortages for their expenses any way they could. They increased the prices of their goods and services in proportion to their financial needs. However, since expenses also rise, it became a vicious cycle. When it was decided to combat high prices, one of the things that was supposed to be stopped was price rises for goods and services. It appears that in some cases it is still not being carried out. [20 Dec p 3]

[Caller] It is always said that Iran is the world's second largest producer of natural gas, but at the slightest sign of cold weather, they cannot even get the gas to the people who need it. [20 Dec p 3]

[Caller] In your 11 December edition, you gave a special answer to a telephone call. You implied that our oil revenue should be spent on the country's economic infrastructure and you sanctioned raising the price of everything; even bus fares should rise to 100 rials. I wanted to ask you whether you are aware of wage levels in countries that have no oil at all.Our salary and wages are almost equal to those who are on unemployment compensation, which makes our pay almost equal to volunteer work. According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, the cost of a hamburger is equal to 30 seconds of work. In Iran a laborer has to work an hour and a half for the same hamburger. [21 Dec p 3]

[Caller] Was dealing with overcharging just talk or do they really want to combat it? It was announced that the export of tires, cleaning materials, tomato sauce and other things are forbidden. Unfortunately, the managing directer of commerce recently asked for export restrictions to be lifted for these items since we produce more than enough to meet domestic need. If tires produced exceed domestic need, why isn't there a single tire to be found in the stores? Did they take the tires out of warehouses to export them? [21 Dec p 3]

[Caller] Tomato sauce was selling for 170 tumans in Sepah store last week. Now, it is selling for 230 tumans. Do you call this combating overcharging? It was announced that the 4.5-kilo can of vegetable oil should sell for 1,050 tumans. Again, it was announced that it would beselling with coupons for 1,050 tumans. This creates a black market and the government is responsible for a 4.5-kilo can of oil selling for over 2,000 tumans. [26 Dec p 3]

[Caller] The government has announced that it will deal decisively with price gouging. Every day, the newspapers write that a hoarder has been arrested or an amount of hoarded sugar discovered. This is merely a "slogan project." Instead of prices going down, many have risen. At the moment, no sugar or cooking oil can be found anywhere in Tehran.

[SALAM] We said from the start that the main difficulty is the high cost ofliving. Overcharging is the second problem. We do not publish certain economic notes for fear they might cause misunderstandings. At any rate, if attention is not given to all the provisions of this plan, the outcome is evident. [26 Dec p 3]

[Caller] Unfortunately the prices of goods are on the rise and we don't know what measures the government is going to adopt. A few days ago the price of chicken was 260 tomans per kilo. The next day, it was being sold for 290 tomans per kilo. Why? [27 Dec p 3]

ON COMPLETION OF THE BUSHEHR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

[Caller] The Bushehr Nuclear Power plant has been abandoned, its fate unresolved for 16 years. So far, billions of tomans have been spent on its maintenance. The result has been nothing but loss. The government could have spent this money to build dams. It could have built two large dams by now. [27 Dec p 3]

ON BANNING SATELLITE EQUIPMENT

[Caller] It is true that from the beginning you have been against any use of physical force in outlawing satellite equipment. But you have always limited your remarks to a few words, saying that one cannot deal with satellites by force. It would be nice if you wrote a long article giving logical reasons that might prove effective.

[SALAM] It should not be necessary to mention for the hundreth time that many satellite programs are harmful and subversive to our national culture and religion. For this reason, the society is going to be deprived of its useful programs. We don't believe that banning equipment is going to resolve the situation, but the ban was issued to show that they are doing something. The future will tell which of us is right. [27 Dec p 3]

ON REGULATORY POLICIES

[Caller] Your newspaper's illogical postsures have brought grief to many people. Hopefully, we'll attend your burial by the end of this year.

[SALAM] You don't even need to try. Our economic regulatory policies will do us in before you can get started. [26 Dec p 3]

ON LAWLESSNESS, LACK OF OFFICIALS' RESPONSIBILITY

[Caller] Last night, 24 December, I filled my tank at a gas station on Mirza Shirazi Street. My car came to a halt a few steps beyond there and kept me there until noon today. After taking the car to several repair shops, I discovered they had sold me water instead of gasoline. When I protested to the service station, they told me that a tanker had filled their storage tank with water instead of gasoline. I want the NIOC [National Iranian Oil Company] officials to explain who is responsible for this damage that has been inflicted on scores of people. The car repair shops on Mirza Shirazi Street can testify to the number of cars that have come to them with water in their tanks. [26 Dec p 3]

[Caller] From the beginning of 1373 [21 Mar 1994], whenever I have gone to the tribunal to collect blood money, I have been told that the Plan and Budget Organization [sic] has not determined their budget yet. Will you please tell us who to complain to about the court?

[SALAM] We need to provide this explanation to our readers: when the court orders payment of blood money, if the accused is either unable to pay or is a murderer, the government takes on the responsibility for the payment. That is why in the past a certain amount was set aside for this purpose. However, considering the number of blood money cases where people are unable to pay or murders where the killers are unknown, the government has to pay a substantial sum. Considering the government's financial situation, it is unable to pay for them. The reason for this is the weakness in numerous existing laws for payment of damages. In our current society, it is impossible, without making insurance compulsory and increasing the rates for damages, to resolve these difficulties. [21 Dec p 3]

ON DISPARITY

[Caller] In a matter regarding the NIOC, you asked whether consumers know that the country's consumption of natural gas and gasoline is over 60 million liters daily. Does anyone care enough to ask how much is spent on flowers cut daily to adorn the desks of managers? This practice continues while many students lack shoes, clothing, and school supplies. [26 Dec p 3]

ON HEJAB OR ISLAMIC GARB

[Caller] It has been 15 years since the Islamic Revolution and much has been said about hejab or lack of it. As a man, I have come to the conclusion that the source of the hejab issue in our ideology, especially Islamic ideology, lies in our belief in man's superiority. Because men are weak and cannot control themselves in regard to sensual matters, they force Islamic garb on women. A man should observe the hejab in thought. Women should not be restricted. I am my own witness to this claim because I have no feeling toward any women, whether in hejab or not, except my own wife. Please tell men to correct themselves. Let's get this issue in perspective. [21 Dec p 3]

[SALAM] There is no doubt that many of our problems are related to personal weaknesses. We can assume two things. If we assume that the essential difficulty is in people's or men's weaknesses, this ought to be corrected. Then we can similarly argue that there is no need to use or improve security devices in cars and residences because the main problem lies in us who commit thefts and if everyone would refrain from stealing, there would be no need for all the massive investment in security.

So, if anyone tries to safeguard their money or belongings, we would have to criticize him because we would not be infringing on his wealth. You know, I am sure, that there are people, though poor, who would not touch money, even if they found millions of tumans in the street. But this does not mean that they would consider other people's precautions with suspicion. It has been assumed that in regard to the question of the hejab, the problem lies with men and they, because of chauvinism, have issued hejab regulations. But that is not the entire story. The muslim woman's honor demands the hejab so that others will not lust for her. Not everyone has this type of honor. [21 Dec pp 3, 2]

ON MARJA'IYAT OR SOURCE OF EMULATION

[Caller] Why have the individuals in charge of SALAM, who are considered leaders by society, kept silent on marja'iyat? Why don't you write something? It is as if nothing has happened.

[SALAM] Unfortunately, an atmosphere has been created. We have decided to remain silent so we don't participate in creating unrest over our society's ancient beliefs. If the situation is normalized and we discover that our writing will have the effect of strengthening the ideals and religious foundations of our readers, then we will deal in-depth with the religious, historical, and political dimensions of the problem and tell all that needs to be told. [21 Dec p 3]

ON LIMITING REPORTERS' AND PHOTOGRAPHERS' ACCESS

[Caller] Regarding Mr. Taqavi's comment that reporters and photographers should not necessarily be present whenever there is any news. I would like to say that he is the representative of 5,000 people, but reporters and photographers are the eyes and ears of 60 million people.

[SALAM] According to the constitution, every Majles representative is in reality the representative of all the Iranian people and is free to express an opinion on any matter regarding the country. Of course, in this case his opinion about the presence of reporters during this incident [not further specified] should be discounted. [21 Dec p 3]

ON THE ARREST OF BANK MELLI OFFICIAL

[Caller] Please follow up the recent arrest of an official of the Bank Melli so that other matters can be cleared up.

[SALAM] We hope that his praises will not be sung in a few days or a few weeks so that we are not forced to hold a whip in one hand and a trophy in the other. [21 Dec p 3]

ON LACK OF CONTINUITY IN MANAGEMENT

[Caller] The lack of continuity in the management in the country, even at the lower levels, decided on arbitrarily, strikes a blow at growth and development. This has been mentioned and written about so often. However, it still continues.

[SALAM] If dismissals and appointments were done for the purpose of replacing poor managers with effective ones, they would be justified. However, even that, if practiced too often, contributes to weakening management. But changes in management that are exercised due to political connections or disagreements strike the hardest blow. [21 Dec p 3]

ON FALLACIOUS STATEMENTS

[Caller] It was announced on the news last night that oil will be distributed to areas in Tehran where gas has been disconnected. If these areas have gas-heating systems, what are they going to do with the oil even if it is distributed to them? What would they pour it in and where would they store it? Such announcements are irrational and absurd.

[SALAM] It is better than nothing!!! [21 Dec p 3]

ON DIVORCE LAWS

[Caller] I want to ask those in charge of the country's legal matters to reconsider the divorce law that a father will be granted custody of sons over the age of two. A mother has a greater love for a child than a father who will remarry and subject the child to a stepmother. A child showered by a mother's love will grow healthy. Only a mother can provide this love, not a stepmother. There have been some unpleasant events because of this law. [21 Dec p 3]

Pakistan

Official on World Trade Center Bombing Suspect

BK0902091495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0855 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Feb 9 (AFP)—Pakistani authorities said Thursday [9 February] the suspect they extradited to the United States in connection with the 1993 World Trade Centre bombings was an Iraqi national.

A Foreign Office spokesman here said that Ramzi Ahmed Yusuf, who was flown to the United States Tuesday, was arrested in Islamabad a few days ago. "Papers showed that he is an Iraqi national," the spokesman said.

Asked if the government was convinced that Yusuf was the alleged terrorist wanted by Washington for the bombings, the spokesman said the accused was on the "red alert list" of Interpol.

Editorials View U.S. Nuclear Monitoring Station

'Unsettling Questions' Raised

BK0802094395 Islamabad THE NATION in English 8 Feb 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Another Mystery?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] From time to time reports have been appearing in the Press regarding the setting up of a seismic station in Pakistan under the direct control of the US. Defence Secretary Perry, on his recent visit to the Subcontinent, was questioned on the issue in New Delhi and is reported to have conceded that the station could also serve to monitor nuclear explosions. Now a report has surfaced that the Clinton administration has revealed in a letter to the Speaker of the US House of Representatives that a GSETT-3 prototype seismic monitoring station is being set up in Pakistan which will assist the US in monitoring nuclear testing and other related activities in the region. US Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Wendy R. Sherman, has stated in the letter in question that the seismic station would engage Pakistan in a cooperative non-proliferation venture with the US. The US Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security Affairs is said to have approved an amount of $200,000 for the installation of GSETT-3 equipment at this station out of a $10 million Non-proliferation and Disarmament Fund.

If the report is true, it raises certain unsettling questions: In the first place, the station will be completely in the control of the US. Pakistan's sovereignty over this potentially sensitive station will be non-existent. The setting up of the station has the potential to annoy neighbouring countries like Iran and China which may not take kindly to Pakistani soil being used for snooping on them in terms of detecting if any clandestine nuclear testing is taking place. The strange part is that in the case of China, every test is announced by the Chinese government itself, which is not so far part of any international regime of restraint on nuclear tests. Iran, despite propaganda from the West, does not so far seem to have anything except a programme for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy under IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] safeguards. Therefore what will the seismic station be monitoring? As Assistant Secretary Sherman's letter goes on to imply, despite Pakistan's refusal to date because of the perceived nuclear threat from India to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty, due for extension in April 1995, or the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which the US administration hopes to have ratified by the end of this year, the permitting of an American seismic station on Pakistani soil would embroil the country in support for both Treaties indirectly. The fear in certain quarters is that is only a small step away from surrendering to the US on the nuclear programme per se. It may be that such fears are exaggerated and unjustified, but it seems exceedingly strange, after the furore over Gwadar for example, that the government is so niggardly in providing accurate and timely information on decisions of a controversial nature which may or may not impinge on national sovereignty and security. One hopes that the government will have learnt something from the Gwadar debacle and will respond to the reports by taking parliament and the people into confidence whether the reports about a seismic station are correct, what exactly the station is supposed to do. what control, if any, Pakistan will retain over the location, etc, etc. The people have a right to know.

Seismic Center Idea Opposed

BK0902020795 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 8 Feb 95 p 10

[Editorial: "U.S. Nuclear Monitoring Center in Pakistan? What Does It Mean?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a press report, Pakistan has allowed the United States set up a seismological center in Pakistan by which the United States will actually monitor nuclear activities in the region, including Pakistan, India, Iran, and China et cetera. Although the U.S. defense secretary during his visit to Pakistan gave no indication of this, he confirmed it at a news conference during his stay in India. The center will be used to monitor nuclear activities. A letter in October 1994 written by the U.S. Administration to the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives also mentioned it and said that the setting up of a G Sat-3 type station in Pakistan with the money from the $10-million fund under the U.S. "Freedom Support Act," law—which was aimed at completing the mission of nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament—would greatly help in monitoring nuclear activities.

The United States is trying by every possible means to force Pakistan to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to eliminate Pakistan's nuclear deterrent program, which is vital for its security, existence, and protection. The United States has already succeeded in capping Pakistan's nuclear program, and now it wants to confirm whether Pakistan has actually capped it or not. It is unfortunate that our foreign minister himself proposed the nonintrusive inspection, thereby making the task easy for the United States. The existing inspection system is probably part of this process. [sentence as published] If Pakistan accepts either of these proposals, then it would mean that we will make ourselves helpless and deprive ourselves of the strength to protect our nation from Indian aggression, including a nuclear attack.

Pakistan's nuclear program does, in fact, provide a guarantee for maintenance of peace in the subcontinent. Because, when Pakistan did not have nuclear capability, India unhesitatingly carried out aggression against us in 1948, 1965, and 1971. However, when India carried out its nuclear explosion in 1974, in response, Pakistan started its own nuclear program, and with the passage of time made progress in this sphere and acquired nuclear deterrent capability. Fearing this, India has not dared carry out any naked aggression against Pakistan since 1971 despite all the disputes, the freedom movement in Kashmir, and the face-to-face confrontation at Siachen. It is not only the common impression, but has also been claimed by the armed forces and the government that they are the protectors of the nuclear program. Now it is their duty to protect the nuclear program from the hands of the United States.

Pakistan's nuclear deterrent capability is essential also because Pakistan is nowhere near comparable to India in terms of conventional weapons and troop strength. India possesses unlimited resources, and, in utilizing these resources, it has developed an armed force like a mini-superpower. India's Navy is capable of establishing its hegemony, stretching from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. India's missiles are not only capable of hitting Pakistan, they are capable of reaching targets in Iran, China, Central Asia, and the Gulf, too. Given this situation, if Pakistan allows the United States the facility to monitor nuclear activities, then on the one hand it will restrict our own nuclear capability. On the other, Iran and China might justifiably be annoyed with the Pakistani action. The Indian HINDU newspaper also published the news about nuclear monitoring a month ago. However, the Government of Pakistan has not refuted it yet. It is also imperative upon the country's opposition to play its role, which it did not do effectively, in protecting the country's most vital interests like the nuclear program. In fact, a national consensus is necessary on this issue so no one gets a chance to make us weak in terms of defense.

It is possible that U.S. restrictions on Pakistan will be eased if it accepts the new system and the decayed [as published] F-16 planes will also be given to us during Ms. Bhutto's April visit to the United States, because, according to a report, Pakistani emblem has been engraved on them. However, by doing so, we will be compromising on our security and sovereignty because the nation views the nuclear program in this perspective. It will mean that we have bowed to the superpower. The doubts and misgivings the opposition has been expressing on Kashmir, the nuclear program, and the Gwadar port issue are true. Are we really trying to please the United States by accepting Indian hegemony?

Foreign Minister, Kashmiri Leader Meet in London

BK0902054595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 9 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of the All Parties Kashmir Hurriyat Conference, Mir Waiz Mohammad Omar Farooq, had a meeting in London yesterday with the Pakistan foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, and made a comprehensive exchange of views on the situation in Kashmir. The mir waiz told the Pakistan foreign minister that no amount of Indian brutalities and repression could suppress or break the will of the Kashmiri people for liberation.

Earlier, the Pakistan foreign minister, who specially flew to London for the meeting, told the mir waiz that a successful strike was observed all over Pakistan on Sunday [5 February] last at the call of prime minister to express solidarity of the Pakistani people with the struggling people of Kashmir. He also assured the Kashmiri leader that Pakistan would continue to extend full moral, political, and diplomatic support to the just and noble cause of the people of Kashmir.

Editorial Views U.S. Commitment to Kashmir Issue

BK0802135195 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 5 Feb 95 p 4

[Editorial: "The United States Has no Solution to Kashmir"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ms. Robin Raphel, who is in charge of South Asian affairs at the U.S. State Department, has stated that the United States does not have any solid plan for the resolution of the Kashmir issue. In its contacts with India and Pakistan on various occasions, the United States has stressed that the parties themselves should find a solution to this issue through mutual negotiations. She has stated that the relations between the United States and India are in a phase of extreme cordiality and expansion. On an overall basis, their ties can perhaps be repelled [radd]. [sentence as published] She also referred to the exchange of high-level officials, commercial contacts, and the latest agreement signed in the defense field between the two countries. The issue of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty has yet to be resolved. The United States prefers to resolve the issue at regional level and has been making efforts to extend the treaty until April next. [sentence as published] Most of the objectives of the United States and India are identical. In other words, they want to create a safe and stable world order in which nuclear weapons will be at a minimum or completely absent. Referring to the tension escalating between Pakistan and India during the past year, Ms. Robin Raphel said that the United States wants the two countries to resume bilateral talks. According to the United States, an atmosphere of trust can be created between the two countries. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will visit the United States in April. Robin Raphel said Bhutto's visit would be welcome. Appreciating India's intention to hold elections in Kashmir, Robin Raphel said India's efforts to begin a political dialogue on Kashmir are extremely constructive and that scrupulous elections can carry forward the process, provided the Kashmiris participate in them. From Robin Raphel's interview it is clear that India considers the bilateral talks between India and Pakistan as imperative for the resolution of the Kashmir issue. Pakistan never rejected bilateral talks, but it deems meaningless talks worthless. Pakistan on several occasions has called for the withdrawal of Indian troops from occupied Kashmir, an end to the atrocities being committed there, release of Kashmiri leaders, fulfillment of the requirements for normalizing the situation in occupied Kashmir, a halt to the violation of the Line of Control in the future, and, above all, an assurance for a free and fair plebiscite. If there is an intention to resolve the Kashmir issue, then why should India hesitate at all in meeting these conditions, and why should India's friends or patrons waver in making India accept them?

Economic Council Approves 'Important' Projects

BK0802160395 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Feb 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council—ECNEC—has approved projects in various sectors costing over 16 billion rupees. The meeting, chaired by the adviser to prime minister for finance and economic affairs, Mr. V.A. Jaffrey, held its session in Islamabad today. The ECNEC approved the Sandak copper gold projects for the mining, milling, and smelting of copper gold at Sandak in District Chaghai. The ore will yield an annual production of almost 15,000 tons of (?filter) copper, 1.5 tons of gold, and 2.76 tons of silver. The project of Western bypass, Quetta, was also approved. Another important project, Karachi Water Supply Improvement Project, pertaining to the supply of water to Karachi was also approved which will develop treatment facilities for 100 million gallons per day at Hab and 25 million gallons per day at (Pitri). The participatory rural development project in Balochistan was approved to achieve sustainable improvement in the living conditions of poor people in 12 districts of the province. The fields would be identified, planned, designed, and implemented by self help organizations with the cooperation of Balochistan rural support program. The fields covered under the scheme include agriculture, physical infrastructure, sanitation, drinking water, environment, education, livestock, and human resource development. The committee approved Murree, Kahuta, and Kotli-Sajna Tehsil [revenue district] Upland Rehabilitation and Development Project to improve the socioeconomic condition of the population through the establishment of social organizations and reversing the process of environmental degradation through improved range and forest management. The committee also approved acquisition of fisheries research vessel for fisheries research surveys, training of fishermen, and exploratory fishing at the coastal and offshore waters.

Interior Minister Blames India for Karachi Deaths

BK0702154695 Karachi DAWN in English 7 Feb 95 pp 1,7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Feb 6—Minister for interior Nasirullah Khan Babar said here on Monday [6

February] that the government had full knowledge about the culprits involved in the killing of 37 people in Karachi during the last two days and that they will be apprehended very soon.

"We have got the proof of foreign involvement that killed a lot of innocent people in Karachi, while some others died due to sectarian clashes," he added.

Commenting over the statements made by three MNAs [Member of National Assembly], Mr Babar said a number of terrorists had been arrested who were involved in the subversion in Karachi. "We are expecting to arrest more criminals and anti-social elements who have been sent into Pakistan from across the border to carry out subversive activities," he added.

However, he refused to name any captured terrorist by saying that it was a secret matter and that all the information would be released about them when they were punished by courts.

Jamaat-i-Islami's Muzaffar Hashmsi, the JUT's [expansion unknown] Maulana Ghafoor Haidery and the PML's [Pakistan Muslim League] Ahsan Iqbal had earlier accused the government of failing to maintain law and order and called for new measures to restore normality in Karachi. They claimed that the Indian secret service RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] was conducting subversive activities in the provincial metropolis.

The interior minister said after the army's withdrawal from Karachi, some incidents of violence had occurred. Talking specifically about Sunday's shooting, he claimed that the attack on Harkat-al-Ansar was "open proof" of the foreign hand. "We know that our enemy from across the border is involved in it," he declared.

Mr Babar said those who were killed in a mosque were targeted by their rival religious group. "People from an Imam bargah came and killed the people in the mosque," he stated.

He said since the members of the Harkat-al-Islam were expressing their solidarity with the Kashmiri freedom-fighters, they were attacked by enemy agents who had received their training outside Pakistan.

He said the government also knew that a particular group had been engaged in the killing of innocent people during the last two days. "It is our information that these people keep changing their vehicles, dresses and their hideouts and I assure you that they would be arrested very soon."

The minister said the police in Karachi had been grossly misused by the late Jam Sadiq Ali, because of which things were still very tough for the government. "Jam Sadiq has in fact destroyed the positive role of the police in Karachi," he maintained.

Talking about sectarianism, Mr Babar said it was such an alarming issue that it could not be allowed to go unnoticed. "I think we all should do some soul searching and uncover the factors underlying the problem of growing sectarianism in Pakistan."

The minister regretted that ethnic tension had also aggravated the law an order problem in Karachi.

Earlier, Mr Iqbal of PML said no terrorist had ever been punished and that this was the failure of the government. He said the nation must be told about the terrorists who had been arrested by the government.

In response, the minister again stood up and said he was ready to give information to the MNA privately. He was of the view that if at this stage any information related to these terrorists was divulged, it might not be good from the security point of view. "Let us sit in the speaker's chamber where I will give all the details about these people."

Jamaat-i-Islami's Muzaffar Hashmi charged that violence was on the increase due to the inefficiency of both the federal and Sindh governments. He said the government should have arrested the "new group" operating in Karachi if at all the ministry of interior did have some information about it.

Maualana Haidery of the JUI [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam] said the Indian agents were killing innocent people and that the government had utterly failed to nab those in it. He called for adoption of urgent measures to restore complete peace in the urban areas of Sindh. "You have failed to get hold of the RAW agents," the Maualana alleged.

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